THE PLAIN-DEALER.

A

COMEDY.

As it is Acted at the

Theatre-Royal.

Written by Mr. WYCHERLEY.

The Third Edition.

HORAT.

——*Ridiculum acri*
Fortius & melius magnas plerumque ſecat res.

Licenſed *Jan.* 9. 1676.
ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON,

Printed for *R. Bently* and *M. Magnes*, in *Ruſſel-ſtreet* in *Covent-Garden* near the *Piazza's*.

M DC LXXVII.

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To my LADY B—

Madam,

THO I never had the Honour to receive a Favour from you, nay, or be known to you, I take the confidence of an Author to write to you a Billiet doux Dedicatory; which is no new thing, for by moſt Dedications it appears, that Authors though they praiſe their Patrons from top to toe, and ſeem to turn 'em inſide out, know 'em as little, as ſometimes their Patrons their Books, tho they read them out; and if the Poetical Daubers did not write the Name of the Man or woman on top of the Picture, 'twere impoſſible to gueſs whoſe it were. But you, Madam, without the help of a Poet, have made your ſelf known and famous in the World; and, becauſe you do not want it, are therefore moſt worthy an Epiſtle Dedicatory. And this Play claims naturally your Protection, ſince it has loſt its Reputation with the Ladies of ſtricter lives in the Play-houſe; and (you know) when Mens endeavours are diſcountenanc'd and refus'd, by the nice coy Women of Honour, they come to you, To you the Great and Noble Patroneſs of rejected and baſhful men, of which number I profeſs my ſelf to be one, though a Poet, a Dedicating Poet: To you I ſay, Madam, who have as diſcerning a judgement, in what's obſcene or not, as any quick-ſighted civil Perſon of 'em all, and can make as much of a double-meaning ſaying as the beſt of 'em; yet would not, as ſome do, make nonſenſe of a Poet's jeſt, rather than not make it baudy: by which they ſhow they as little value Wit in a Play, as in a Lover, provided they can bring t' other thing about. Their ſenſe indeed lies all one way, and therefore are only for that in a Poet which is moving, as they ſay; But what do they mean by that word moving? Well, I muſt not put 'em to the bluſh, ſince I find I can do't. In ſhort, Madam, you wou'd not be one of thoſe who raviſh a Poet's innocent words, and make 'em guilty of their own naugh-

tineſs (as 'tis term'd) in ſpight of his teeth; nay, nothing is ſecure from the power of their imaginations; no, not their Huſbands, whom they Cuckold with themſelves, by thinking of other men, and ſo make the lawful matrimonial embraces Adultery; wrong Husbands and Poets in thought and word, to keep their own Reputations; but your Ladiſhip's juſtice, I know, wou'd think a Woman's Arraigning and Damning a Poet for her own obſcenity, like her crying out a Rape, and hanging a man for giving her pleaſure, onely that ſhe might be thought not to conſent to't; and ſo to vindicate her honour, forfeits her modeſty. But you, Madam, have too much modeſty to pretend to't; tho you have as much to ſay for your modeſty as many a nicer ſhe; for you never were ſeen at this Play, no, not the firſt day; and 'tis no matter what Peoples Lives have been, they are unqueſtionably modeſt who frequent not this Play. For as Mr. Bays *ſays of his, That it is the only Touchſtone of mens Wit, and underſtanding; mine is, it ſeems, the only Touchſtone of Womens Vertue and Modeſty. But hold, that Touchſtone is equivocal, and, by the ſtrength of a Lady's imagination, may become ſomething that is not civil; but your Ladyſhip, I know, ſcorns to miſapply a Touchſtone. And, Madam, tho you have not ſeen this Play, I hope (like other nice Ladies) you will the rather read it: yet, leſt the Chambermaid or Page ſhou'd not be truſted, and their indulgences cou'd gain no further admittance for it, than to their Ladies Lobbies or outward Rooms, take it into your care and protection; for, by your recommendation and procurement, it may have the honour to get into their Cloſets: For what they renounce in publick often entertains 'em there, with your help eſpecially. In fine, Madam, for theſe and many other reaſons, you are the fitteſt Patroneſs or Judge of this Play; for you ſhew no partiallity to this or that Author; for from ſome many Ladies will take a broad jeſt as chearfully as from the Watermen, and ſit at ſome downright filthy Plays (as they call 'em) as well ſatisfied, and as ſtill, as a Poet cou'd wiſh 'em elſewhere; therefore it muſt be the doubtful obſcenity of my Plays alone they take exceptions at, becauſe it is too baſhful for 'em; and indeed muſt Woman hate Men, for attempting to halves on their Chaſtity: and Baudy I find, like Satyr ſhou'd be home, not to have it taken notice of. But, now I mention Satyr, ſome there are who ſay, 'Tis the Plain-dealing of the Play;*

not

not the obſcenity; 'tis taking off the Ladies Masks not offering at their Petticoats, which offends 'em: and generally they are not the handſomeſt, or moſt innocent, who are the moſt angry at being diſcover'd:

——————Nihil eſt audacius illis
Deprehenſis; iram, atq; animos a crimine ſumunt.

Pardon, Madam, the Quotation, for a Dedication can no more be without ends of Latine, than Flattery; and 'tis no matter whom it is writ to; for an Author can as eaſily (I hope) ſuppoſe People to have more underſtanding and Languages than they have as well as more Vertues: But why, the Divel! ſhou'd any of the few modeſt and handſome be alarm'd? (for ſome there are who as well as any deſerve thoſe attributes, yet refrain not from ſeeing this Play, nor think it any addition to their Vertue to ſet up for it in a Play-houſe, leſt it ſhou'd look too much like acting.) But why, I ſay, ſhou'd any at all of the truly vertuous be concern'd, if thoſe who are not ſo are diſtinguiſh'd from 'em? For by that Mask of modeſty which Women wear promiſcuouſly in publick, they are all alike, and you can no more know a kept Wench from a Woman of Honour by her looks than by her Dreſs; for thoſe who are of Quality without Honour (if any ſuch there are) they have their Quality to ſet off their falſe modeſty, as well as their falſe Jewels, and you muſt no more ſuſpect their Countenances for counterfeit than their Pendants, tho, as the Plain-Dealer Montaigne *ſays,* Eles envoyent leur conſcience au Bordel, & teinnent leur contenance en regle: *But thoſe who act as they look, ought not to be ſcandalized at the reprehenſion of others faults, leſt they tax themſelves with 'em, and by too delicate and quick an apprehenſion not only make that obſcene which I meant innocent, but that Satyr on all, which was intended only on thoſe who deſerv'd it. But, Madam, I beg your pardon for this digreſſion, to Civil Women and Ladies of Honour, ſince you and I ſhall never be the better for 'em; for a Comic Poet, and a Lady of your profeſſion, make moſt of the other ſort, and the Stage and your Houſes, like our Plantations, are propagated by the leaſt nice Women; and as with the Miniſters of Juſtice, the Vices of the Age are our beſt buſineſs. But now*

I men-

I mention Publick Perſons, I can no longer defer doing you the Juſtice of a Dedication, and telling you your own; who are, of all publick-ſpirited people, the moſt neceſſary, moſt communicative, moſt generous and hoſpitable; your houſe has been the houſe of the People, your ſleep ſtill diſturb'd for the Publick, and when you aroſe 'twas that others might lye down, and you waked that others might reſt; the good you have done is unſpeakable; How many young unexperienced Heirs have you kept from raſh fooliſh Marriages? and from being jilted for their lives by the worſt ſort of Jilts, Wives? How many unbewitched Widowers Children have you preſerved from the Tyranny of Stepmothers? How many old Dotards from Cuckoldage, and keeping other mens Wenches and Children? How many Adulteries and unnatural ſins have you prevented? In fine, you have been a conſtant ſcourge to the old Lecher, and often a terrour to the young; you have made concupiſence its own puniſhment, and extinguiſhed Luſt with Luſt, like blowing up of Houſes to ſtop the fire.

Nimirum propter continentiam, incontinentia
Neceſſaria eſt, incendium ignibus extinguitur.

There's Latine *for you again. Madam; I proteſt to you, as I am an Author, I cannot help it; nay I can hardly keep my ſelf from quoting* Ariſtotle *and* Horace, *and talking to you of the Rules of Writing (like the* French *Authors,) to ſhew you and my Reader I underſtand 'em, in my Epiſtle, leſt neither of you ſhould find it out by the Play; and, according to the Rules of Dedications, 'tis no matter whether you underſtand or no, what I quote or ſay to you, of Writing; for an Author can as eaſily make any one a Judge or Critick, in an Epiſtle, as an Hero in his Play: But, Madam, that this may prove to the end a true Epiſtle Didicatory, I'd have you know 'tis not without a deſign upon you, which is in the behalf of the Fraternity of* Parnaſſus, *that Songs and Sonnets may go at your Houſes, and in your Liberties, for Guineys and half Guineys; and that Wit, at leaſt with you, as of old, may be the price of Beauty, and ſo you will prove a true encourager of Poetry, for Love is a better help to it than Wine; and Poets, like Painters, draw better after the Life, than by Fancy; Nay, in juſtice, Madam, I think a Poet ought to be as free of your Houſes, as of the Play-Houſes: ſince he*

he contributes to the support of both, and is as necessary to such as you, as a Ballad-singer to the Pick-purse, in convening the Cullies at the Theaters, to be pick'd up, and carri'd to a Supper and Bed at your Houses. And, Madam, the reason of this motion of mine is, because poor Poets can get no favour in the Tiring Rooms, for they are no Keepers, you know; and Folly and Money, the old Enemies of Wit, are even too hard for it on its own Dunghill: And for other Ladies, a Poet can least go to the price of them; besides his Wit, which ought to recommend him to 'em, is as much an obstruction to his Love, as to his wealth or preferment; for most Women now adays, apprehend Wit in a Lover, as much as in a Husband; they hate a Man that knows 'em, they must have a blind easie Fool, whom they can lead by the Nose, and as the Scythian *Women of old, must baffle a Man, and put out his Eyes, e're they will lye with him? and then too, like Thieves, when they have plunder'd and stript a Man, leave him. But if there shou'd be one of an hundred of those Ladies, generous enough to give her self to a Man that has more wit than money, (all things consider'd) he wou'd think it cheaper coming to you for a Mistress, though you made him pay his Guiney; as a Man in a Journey, (out of good husbandry) had better pay for what he has in an Inn, than lye on free-cost at a Gentlemans House.*

In fine, Madam, like a faithful Dedicator, I hope I have done my self right in the first place, then you, and your profession, which in the wisest and most religious Government of the World, is honour'd with the publick allowance; and in those that are thought the most unciviliz'd and barbarous, is protected, and supported by the Ministers of Justice; and of you, Madam, I ought to say no more here, for your Vertues deserve a Poem rather than an Epistle, or a Volume intire to give the World your Memoirs, or Life at large, and which (upon the word of an Author that has a mind to make an end of his Dedication) I promise to do, when I write the Annals of our British Love, which shall be Dedicated to the Ladies concern'd, if they will not think them something too obscene too; when your Life, compar'd with many that are thought innocent, I doubt not may vindicate you, and me, to the World, for the confidence I have taken in this Address to you; which then may be thought neither impertinent nor immodest; and, whatsoever your Amorous misfortunes have been, none can charge you with that

heinous,

heinous, and worſt of Womens Crimes, Hypocriſie; nay, in ſpight of misfortunes or age, you are the ſame Woman ſtill; though moſt of your Sex grow Magdalens *at fifty, and as a ſolid* French *Author has it.*

Apres le Plaiſir, vien't la peine,
Apres la peine la vertu;

But ſure an old Sinner's continency is much like a Gameſter's forſwearing Play, when he had loſt all his Money; and Modeſty is a kind of a youthful dreſs, which, as it makes a young Woman more amiable, makes an old one more nauſeous; a baſhful old Woman is like an hopeful old Man; and the affected Chaſtity of antiquated Beauties is rather a reproach than an honour to 'em, for it ſhews the mens Vertue only, not theirs. But you, in fine, Madam, are no more an Hyprocrite than I am when I praiſe you; therefore I doubt not will be thought (even by your's and the Play's Enemies, the niceſt Ladies) to be the fitteſt Patroneſs for,

Madam,

Your Ladiſhip's moſt obedient,
faithful, humble Servant, and

The Plain-Dealer.

PROLOGUE,

Spoken by the

Plain-dealer.

I The PLAIN-DEALER *am to Act to Day:*
And my rough part begins before the Play.
Firſt, you who Scrible, yet hate all that Write,
And keep each other Company in ſpite,
As Rivals in your common Miſtreſs, Fame,
And with faint praiſes, one another Damn:
'Tis a good Play we know) you can't forgive,
But grudge your ſelves, the pleaſure you receive,
Our Scribler therefore bluntly bid me ſay,
He wou'd not have the Wits pleas'd here to day.
Next, you, the fine, loud Gentlemen, o'th Pit,
Who Damn all Plays; yet, if y'ave any Wit,
'Tis but what here you ſpunge, and daily get;
Poets, like Friends to whom you are in Debt,
You hate: and ſo Rooks Laugh, to ſee undone
Thoſe puſhing Gantefters whom they live upon.
Well, you are Sparks; and ſtill will be i' th' faſhion:
Rail then, at Plays, to hide your Obligation.
Now, you ſhrewd Judges who the Boxes ſway,
Leading the Ladies hearts, and ſenſe aſtray,
And, for their ſakes, ſee all, and hear no Play;
Correct your Cravats, Foretops, Lock behind;
The Dreſs and Breeding of the Play ne're mind.

Plain-dealing *is, you'll ſay, quite out of faſhion;*
You'll hate it here, as in a dedication.
And your fair Neighbours, in a Limning Poet.
No more than in a painter will allow it.
Pictures too like, the Ladies will not pleaſe:
They muſt be drawn too here, like Goddeſſes.
You, as at Lely's *too, wou'd Truncheon wield.*
And look like Heroes, in a painted Field;
But the courſe dauber of the coming Scenes,
To follow life, and Nature only means:
Diſplayes you, as you are: makes his fine Woman
A mercenary Jilt, and true to no Man;
His Men of Wit, and pleaſure of the age,
Are as dull Rogues, as ever cumber'd Stage:
He draws a Friend, only to Cuſtom juſt;
And makes him naturally break his truſt.
I, only, act a part like none of you;
And yet, you'll ſay, it is a Fools Part too:
An honeſt Man; who, like you, never winks
At faults; but unlike you, ſpeaks what he thinks:
The only Fool who ne're found Patron yet;
For Truth is now a fault, as well as Wit.
And where elſe, but on Stages do we ſee
Truth pleaſing; or rewarded Honeſty?
Which our bold Poet does this day in me.
If not to th' Honeſt, be to th' proſp'rous kind:
Some Friends at Court let the PLAIN-DEALER *find.*

THE

Some Books Printed for R. Bently *and* M. Magnes.

PLato's *Apologie of* Socrates, *or* Phedo, *two Dialogues concerning the immortality of Man's Soul.*
A Natural Hiſtory of the Paſſions.
Country Wit.
Sophonisba.
Nero.
Auguſtus Cæſar.
Abdellazar.
Sir *Timothy Taudery.*
Madam Fickle.
All Miſtaken.
Engliſh Monſieur.
Tartuff.
Andromache.
Caliſta.
Farced Marriage.
The Fool turned Critick.
Fond Husband.
Plain-Dealer.
Thyeſtes: A Tragedy.
Moral Eſſays, the ſecond Part.
The Policy of the Clergy of France *to deſtroy the Proteſtants.*

English Novels, New.

Zelinda.
Count Brion.
Happy Slave.
The Diſorders of love.
The ſecond part of the Happy Slave.
The Pilgrim, in two parts.
The Princeſs of Montferrat; in two parts.

French Novels.

Princeſſe Monferrat.
L'Heureux Eſclave, complet en trois Voll.
Mercure Galand, pour l'Année 1677.
Le Triomphe l'Amour ſur la Deſtinée.
A French Play Acted at Whitehall, *Entituled,* Rare-en-tout.

THE PERSONS.

Manly
Mr. Hart. — Of an honeſt, ſurly, nice humour, ſuppos'd firſt, in the time of the *Dutch* War, to have procur'd the Command of a Ship, out of Honour, not Intereſt; and chooſing a Sea-life. only to avoid the World.

Freeman
Mr. Kynaſtan. — *Manly*'s Lieutenant, a Gentleman well Educated, but of a broken Fortune, a Complyer with the Age.

Verniſh
Mr. Griffin. — *Manly*'s Boſom, and only Friend.

Novel.
Mr. Clark. — A pert railing Coxcomb, and an Admirer of Novelties, makes Love to *Olivia.*

Major Oldfox
Mr. Cartwright. — An old impertinent Fop, given to Scribling makes Love to the *Widow Blackacre.*

My Lord Plauſible
Mr. Hains. — A Ceremonious Supple, Commending Coxcomb, in Love with *Olivia.*

Jerry Blackacre
M. Charlton. — A true raw Squire under Age, and his Mothers Government, bred to the Law.

Olivia
Mrs. Marſhall. — *Manly*'s Miſtreſs.

Fidelia
Mrs. Boutell. — In Love with *Manly,* and follow'd him to Sea in Man's Cloaths.

Eliza
Mrs. Knep. — Couſin to *Olivia.*

Lettice
Mrs. Knight, — *Olivia's* Woman.

The Widow Blackacre
Mrs. Cory. — A petulant, litigious Widow, always in Law and Mother to Squire *Jerry.*

Lawyers, Knights of the Poſt, Bayliffs, and Alderman, a Bookſellers Prentice, a Footboy, Sailors, Waiters, and Attendants.

THE SCENE.

LONDON.

The Plain-Dealer.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Captain Manly's *Lodging.*

Enter Captain Manly *ſurlily; and my Lord* Plauſible *following him: and two* Sailors *behind.*

Man. TEll not me (my good Lord *Plauſible*) of your *Decorums*, ſupercilious Forms, and ſlaviſh Ceremonies; your little Tricks, which you the Spaniels of the World, do daily over and over, for, and to one another; not out of love or duty, but your ſervile fear.

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, i'faith, i'faith, you are too paſſionate, and I muſt humbly beg your pardon and leave to tell you, they are the Arts, and Rules, the prudent of the World walk by.

Man. Let 'em. But I'll have no Leading-ſtrings, I can walk alone; I hate a Harneſs, and will not tug on in a Faction, kiſſing my Leader behind, that another Slave may do the like to me.

L. *Plauſ.* What will you be ſingular then, like no Body? follow Love, and eſteem no Body?

Man. Rather than be general, like you; follow every Body, Court and kiſs every Body; though perhaps at the ſame time, you hate every Body.

L. *Plauſ.* Why, ſeriouſly with your pardon, my dear Friend ——

Man. With your pardon, my no Friend, I will not, as you do, whiſper my hatred, or my ſcorn, call a man Fool or Knave, by ſigns or mouths over his ſhoulder, whil'ſt you have him in your arms; for ſuch as you, like common Whores and Pickpockets, are only dangerous to thoſe you embrace.

L. *Plauſ.* Such as I! Heav'ns defend me—upon my Honour——

Man. Upon your Title, my Lord, if you'd have me believe you.

L. *Plauſ.* Well then, as I am a Perſon of Honour, I never attempted to abuſe, or leſſen any perſon, in my life.

Man. What, you were afraid?

L. *Plauſ.* No; but ſeriouſly, I hate to do a rude thing: no, faith, I ſpeak well of all Mankind.

Man. I thought ſo: but know that ſpeaking well of all Mankind, is the worſt kind of Detraction, for it takes away the Reputation of the few good

n en in the World, by making all alike: now I ſpeak ill of moſt men, becauſe t. ey deſerve it; I that can do a rude thing, rather than an unjuſt thing.

L. Plauſ. Well, tell not me, my dear Friend, what people deſerve, I ne'r mind that; I, like an Author in a Dedication, never ſpeak well of a man for his ſake, but my own; I will not diſparage any man, to diſparge my ſelf; for to ſpeak ill of people behind their backs, is not like a Perſon of Honour; and truly to ſpeak ill of 'em to their faces, is not like a complaiſant perſon: But if I did ſay, or do an ill thing to any, it ſhould be ſure to be behind their backs, out of pure good manners.

Man. Very well; but I, that am an unmannerly Sea-fellow, if I ever ſpeak well of people, (which is very ſeldom indeed) it ſhou'd be ſure to be behind their backs; and if I wou'd ſay, or do ill to any, it ſhou'd be to their Faces: I wou'd juſtle a proud, ſtrutting, over-looking Coxcomb, at the head of his Sycophants, rather than put out my tongue at him, when he were paſt me; wou'd frown in the arrogant, big, dull face of an over-growen Knave of buſineſs, rather than vent my ſpleen againſt him, when his back were turn'd; wou'd give fawning Slaves the Lye, whilſt they embrace or commend me; Cowards, whilſt they brag; call a Raſcal by no other Title, though his Father had left him a Duke's; laugh at fools aloud, before their Miſtriſſes: And muſt deſire people to leave me, when their Viſits grow at laſt as troubleſom, as they were at firſt impertinent.

L. *Plauſ.* I wou'd not have my Viſits troubleſom.

Man. The only way to be ſure not to have 'em troubleſom, is to make 'em when people are not at home, for your Viſits, like other good turns, are moſt obliging, when made, or done to a man, in his abſence. A Pox why ſhou'd any one, becauſe he has nothing to do, go and diſturb another mans buſineſs?

L. Plauſ. I beg your pardon, my dear Friend. What, you have buſineſs?

Man. If you have any, I wou'd not detain your Lordſhip.

L. Plauſ. Detain me, dear Sir! I can never have enough of your Company.

Man. I'm afraid I ſhoud be tireſom: I know not what you think.

L. Plauſ. Well, dear Sir, I ſee you wou'd have me gone.

Man. But I ſee you won't. [*Aſide.*

L. Plauſ. Your moſt faithful——

Man. God be w'ye, my Lord.

L. Plauſ. Your moſt humble——

Man. Farwel.

L. Plauſ. And eternally——

Man. And eternally Ceremony——then the Devil take thee eternally. [*Aſide.*

L. Plauſ. You ſhall uſe no Ceremony, by my life.

Man. I do not intend it.

L. Plauſ. Why do you ſtir then?

Man. Only to ſee you out of doors, that I may ſhut 'em, againſt more welcomes.

L. Plauſ. Nay, faith that ſha'nt paſs upon your moſt faithful, humble, Servant.

Man. Nor this any more upon me. [*Aſide.*

L. Plauſ

L. *Plauſ.* Well, you are too ſtrong for me.

Man. I'de ſooner be viſited by the Plague; for that only wou'd keep a man from viſits, and his doors ſhut. [*Aſide.*

[*Ex. thruſting out my* Lord Plauſible.

Manent Sailors.

1 *Sail.* Here's a finical Fellow, *Jack*! What a brave fair weather Captain of a Ship he wou'd make!

2 *Sail.* He a Captain of a Ship! it muſt be when ſhe's in the Dock then; for he looks like one of thoſe that get the King's Commiſſions for Hulls to ſell a Kings Ship, when a brave Fellow has fought her almoſt to a Long-boat.

1 *Sail.* On my Conſcienee then, *Jack*, that's the reaſon our Bully *Tar*, ſunk our Ship: not only that the *Dutch* might not have her, but that the Courtiers, who laugh at woodden Legs, might not make her Prize.

2 *Sail.* A pox of his ſinking, *Tom*, we have made a baſe, broken, ſhort Voyage of it.

1 *Sail.* Ay, your briſk dealers in Honour, always make quick returns with their Ship to the Dock, and their Men to the Hoſpitals; 'tis, let me ſee, juſt a Month ſince we ſet out of the River, and the Wind was almoſt as croſs to us, as the *Dutch*.

2 *Sail.* Well, I forgive him ſinking my own poor Truck, if he wou'd but have given me time and leave to have ſav'd black *Kate* of *Wapping*'s ſmall Venture.

1 *Sail.* Faith I forgive him, ſince, as the Purſer told me, he ſunk the value of five or ſix thouſand pound of his own, with which he was to ſettle himſelf ſomewhere in the *Indies*, for our merry Lieutenant was to ſucceed him in his Commiſſion for the Ship back, for he was reſolv'd never to return again for *England*.

2 *Sail.* So it ſeemed, by his Fighting.

1 *Sail.* No, but he was aweary of this ſide of the World here, they ſay.

2 *Sail.* Ay, or elſe he wou'd not have bid ſo fair for a paſſage into t'other.

1 *Sail. Jack*, thou think'ſt thy ſelf in the Forecaſtle, thou'rt ſo waggiſh; but I tell you then, he had a mind to go live and bask himſelf on the ſunny ſide of the Globe.

2 *Sail* What, out of any diſcontent? for he's always as dogged, as an old Tarpaulin when hindred of a Voyage by a young Pantaloon Captain.

Sail. 'Tis true, I never ſaw him pleas'd but in the Fight, and then he look'd like one of us, coming from the Play-table, with a new Lining to our Hats under our Arms.

2 *Sail.* A pox he's like the *Bay* of *Biſcay*, rough and angry, let the Wind blow where 'twill.

1 *Sail.* Nay, there's no more dealing with him, than with the Land in a Storm, No-near———

2 *Sail.* 'Tis a hurry durry Blade; doſt thou remember after we had tugg'd hard the old leaky Longboat, to ſave his life, when I welcom'd him aſhore, he gave me a box on the ear, and call'd me fawning Water-dog.

Enter Manly, *and* Freeman.

1 *Sail.* Hold thy peace, *Jack*, and ſtand by, the foul weather's coming.

Man. You Raſcal, Dogs, how cou'd this tame thing get through you?

1 *Sail.* Faith to tell your Honour the truth, we were at Hob in the Hall, and whilſt my Brother and I were quarrelling about a Caſt, he ſlunk by us.

2 *Sail.* He's a ſneaking Fellow I warrant for't.

Man. Have more care for the future, you Slaves; go, and with drawn Cutlaces, ſtand at the Stair foot, and keep all that ask for me from coming up; ſuppoſe you are guarding the Scuttle to the Powder-room: let none enter here, at your and their peril.

1 *Sail.* No, for the danger wou'd be the ſame; you wou'd blow them and us up, if we ſhou'd.

2 *Sail.* Muſt no one come to you, Sir?

Man. No man, Sir.

1 *Sail.* No man, Sir; but a Woman then, an't like your Honour——

Man. No Woman neither, you impertinent Dog. Wou'd you be Pimping? A Sea Pimp is the ſtrangeſt Monſter ſhe has.

2 *Sail.* Indeed, an't like your Honour, 'twill be hard for us to deny a Woman any thing, ſince we are ſo newly come on ſhore.

1 *Sail.* Well let no old Woman come up, though it were our Truſting Landlady at *Wapping*.

Man. Wou'd you be witty, you Brandy Casks you? you become a jeſt as ill, as you do a Horſe. Be gone, you Dogs, I hear a noiſe on the Stairs. [*Ex.* Sailors.

Free. Faith I am ſorry you wou'd let the Fop go, I intended to have had ſome ſport with him.

Man. Sport with him! A Pox then why did you not ſtay? you ſhou'd have enjoy'd your Coxcomb, and had him to your ſelf for me.

Free. No, I ſhou'd not have car'd for him, without you neither; for the pleaſure which Fops afford, is like that of Drinking, only good when 'tis ſhar'd; and a fool like a Bottle, which wou'd make you merry in Company, will make you dull alone. But how the Devil cou'd you turn a man of his Quality down Stairs? You uſe a Lord with very little Ceremony, it ſeems.

Man. A Lord! What, thou art one of thoſe who eſteem men only by the marks and value Fortune has ſet upon 'em, and never conſider intrinſick worth; but counterfeit Honour will not be current with me, I weigh the man, no this Title; 'tis not the Kings ſtamp can make the Metal better, or heavier: your Lord is a Leaden ſhilling, which you may bend every way; and debaſes the ſtamp he bears inſtead of being rais'd by't: Here again, you Slaves?

Enter Sailors.

1 *Sail.* Only to receive farther inſtructions, an't like your Honour: What if a man ſhou'd bring you money, ſhou'd we turn him back?

Man. All men, I ſay; muſt I be peſter'd with you too? you Dogs, away.

2 *Sail.* Nay, I know one man your Honour wou'd not have us hinder coming to you, I'm ſure.

Man. Who's that? ſpeak quickly, Slaves

2 *Sail.* Why a man that ſhou'd bring you a Challenge; for though you refuſe Money, I'm ſure you love Fighting too well to refuſe that.

Man. Rogues, Raſcal, Dog. [*Kicks the* Sailors *out.*

Free. Nay, let the poor Rogues have their Forecaſtle jeſts; they cannot help 'em in a Fight, ſince when a Ship's ſinking.

Man

Man. Dam their untimely jeſts; a Servants jeſt is more ſaucineſs than his counſel.

Free. But what, will you ſee no Body? not your Friends?

Man. Friends——I have but one, and he, I hear, is not in Town; nay, can have but one Friend, for a true heart admits but of one friendſhip, as of one love; but in having that Friend, I have a thouſand, for he has the courage of men in diſpair, yet the diffidency and caution of Cowards; the ſecreſie of the Revengeful, and the conſtancy of Martyrs: one fit to adviſe, to keep a ſecret: to fight and die for his Friend. Such I think him; for I have truſted him with my Miſtreſs in my abſence: and the truſt of Beauty, is ſure the greateſt we can ſhew.

Free. Well, but all your good thoughts are not for him alone? (I hope:) pray what d'ye think of me, for a Friend?

Man. Of thee! Why thou art a *Latitudinarian* in Friendſhip, that is no Friend; thou doſt ſide with all Mankind, but wilt ſuffer for non.. Thou art indeed like your *Lord Plauſible*, the Pink of Courteſie, therefore haſt no Friendſhip; for Ceremony, and great Profeſſing, renders Friendſhip as much ſuſpected, as it does Religion.

Free. And no profeſſing, no Ceremony at all in Friendſhip, were as unnatural and as undecent as in Religion; and there is hardly ſuch a thing as an honeſt Hypocrite, who profeſſes himſelf to be worſe than he is, unleſs it be your ſelf; for, though I cou'd never get you to ſay you were my Friend, I know you'll prove ſo.

Man. I muſt confeſs, I am ſo much your Friend, I wou'd not deceive you, therefore muſt tell you (not only becauſe my heart is taken up) but according to your Rules of Friendſhip, I cannot be your Friend.

Free. Why pray?

Man. Becauſe he that is (you'll ſay) a true Friend to a man, is a Friend to all his Friends; but you muſt pardon me, I cannot wiſh well to Pimps, Flatterers, Detracters, and Cowards, ſtiff nodding Knaves, and ſupple pliant kiſſing Fools: now, all theſe I have ſeen you uſe, like the deareſt Friends in the world.

Free. Hah, hah, hah—What, you obſerv'd me, I warrant, in the Galeries at *Whitehall*, doing the buſineſs of the place! Pſhaw, Court profeſſions, like Court promiſes, go for nothing, man! but, faith, cou'd you think I was a Friend to all thoſe I hugg'd, kiſs'd, flatter'd' bow'd to? Hah ha——

Man. You told 'em ſo, and ſwore it too; I heard you.

Free. Ay, but, when their backs were turn'd, did I not tell you they were Rogues, Villains,, Raſcals whom I deſpis'd, and hated?

Man. Very fine! But what reaſon had I to believe you ſpoke your heart to me, ſince you profeſs'd deceiving ſo many?

Free. Why, don't you know, good Captain, that telling truth is a quality as prejudicial to a man that wou'd thrive in the World, as ſquare Play to a Cheat, or true Love to a Whore! Wou'd you have a man ſpeak truth to his ruin? You are ſeverer than the Law, which requires no man to ſwear againſt himſelf; you wou'd have me ſpeak truth againſt my ſelf, I warrant, and tell my promiſing Friend, the Courtier, he has a bad memory?

Man. Yes.

Free. And ſo make him remember to forget my buſineſs; and I ſhou'd tell the great Lawyer too, that he takes oftner Fees to hold his tongue, than to ſpeak!

Man. No doubt on't.

Free. Ay, and have him hang, or ruin me, when he ſhou'd come to be a Judge, and I before him. And you wou'd have me tell the new Officer, who bought his Employment lately, that he is a Coward.

Man. Ay.

Free. And ſo get my ſelf caſhier'd not him, he having the better Friends, though I the better Sword. And I ſhould tell the Scribler of Honour, that Heraldy were a prettier and fitter Study, for ſo fine a Gentleman, than Poetry?

Man. Certainly.

Free. And ſo find my ſelf maul'd in his next hir'd Lampoon. And you wou'd have me tell the holy Lady too, ſhe lies with her Chaplain.

Man. No doubt on't.

Free. And ſo draw the Clergy upon my back, and want a good Table to Dine at ſometimes. And by the ſame reaſon too, I ſhou'd tell you that the World thinks you a Mad-man, a Brutal, and have you cut my Throat, or worſe hate me! What other good ſucceſs of all my *Plain-dealing* co'ud I have, than what I've mentioned?

Man. Why, firſt your promiſing Courtier wou'd keep his word out of fear of more reproaches; or at leaſt wou'd give you no more vain hopes: your Lawyer wou'd ſerve you more faithfully; for he, having no Honor but his Intereſt, is trueſt ſtill to him he knows ſuſpects him: The new Officer wou'd provoke thee to make him a Coward, and ſo be caſhier'd, that thou, or ſome other honeſt Fellow, who had more courage than money, might get his place: the Noble Sonneteer wou'd trouble thee no more with his Madrigals: the praying Lady wou'd leave off railing at wenching before thee, and not turn away her Chambermaid, for her own known frailty with thee: And I inſtead of hating thee, ſhou'd love thee, for thy *Plain-dealing*; and in lieu of being mortifi'd am proud that the world and I think not well of one another.

Free. Well, Doctors differ. You are for *Plain-dealing*, I find; but againſt your particular Notions, I have the practice of the whole World. Obſerve but any Morning what people do when they get together on the *Exchange*; in *Weſtminſter-hall* or the Galleries in *Whitehall*.

Man. I muſt confeſs, there they ſeem to rehearſe *Bays*'s grand Dance: here you ſee a *Biſhop* bowing low to a guady *Atheiſt*; a Judge, to a Door-keeper; a great Lord, to a Fiſhmonger, or a Scrivener with a Jack-chain about his neck; a Lawyer, to a Serjeant at Arms; a velvet *Phyſician*, to a thred-bare *Chymiſt*: and a ſupple Gentleman Uſher, to a ſurley Beef-eater; and ſo tread round in a prepoſterous huddle of Ceremony to each other, whil'ſt they can hardly hold their ſolemn falſe Countenances.

Free. Well, they underſtand the World.

Man. Which I do not, I confeſs.

Free. But, Sir, pray believe the Friendſhip I promiſe you, real, whatſoever I have profeſt to others: try me, at leaſt.

Man.

Man. Why, what wou'd you do for me?

Free. I wou'd fight for you.

Man. That you wou'd do for your own Honour. but what else?

Free. I wou'd lend you Money, if I had it.

Man. To borrow more of me an other time. That were but putting your Money to intreſt, an Uſerer woud be as good a Friend. But what other piece of Friendſhip?

Free. I wou'd ſpeak well of you to your Enemies.

Man. To encourage others to be your Friends, by a ſhew of gratitude: but what elſe?

Free. Nay, I wou'd not hear you ill ſpoken of behind your back, by my Friend.

Man. Nay, then thou'rt a Friend indeed; but it were unreaſonable to expect it from thee, as the World goes now: when new Friends, like new Miſtriſſes, are got by diſparaging old ones.

Enter Fidelia.

But here comes another, will ſay as much at leaſt; doſt not thou love me deviliſhly too, my little Voluntier, as well as he, or any man can?

Fid. Better than any man can love you, my dear Captain.

Man. Look you there, I told you ſo.

Fid. As well as you do Truth, or Honour, Sir; as well.

Man. Nay, good young Gentleman, enough, for ſhame; thou haſt been a Page, by thy Flattering and Lying, to one of thoſe praying Ladies, who love Flattery ſo well, they are jealous of it, and wert turn'd away for ſaying the ſame things to the o'd Houſe-keeper for ſweet-meats, as you did to your Lady; for thou flattereſt every thing, and every body alike.

Fid You, dear Sir, ſhou'd not ſuſpect the truth of what I ſay of you, though to you; Fame, the old Lyar, is believ'd when ſhe ſpeakes wonders of you; you cannot be flattered, Sir, your Merit is unſpeakable.

Man. Hold, hold, Sir, or I ſhall ſuſpect worſe of you, that you have been a Cuſhion-bearer to ſome State Hypocrite, and turn'd away by the Chaplains, for out-flattering their Probation Sermons for a Benefice.

Fid. Suſpect me for any thing, Sir, but the want of love, Faith, and Duty to you, the braveſt, worthieſt of Mankind; believe me, I cou'd die for you, Sir.

Man. Nay, there you lye, Sir; did I not ſee thee more afraid in the Fight, than the Chaplain of the ſhip, or the Purſer that bought his Place?

Fid. Can he be ſaid to be afraid, that ventures to Sea with you?

Man. Fie, fie, no more, I ſhall hate thy Flattery worſe than thy Cowardiſe, nay, than thy Bragging.

Fid. Well, I own then I was afraid; mightily afraid; yet for you I wou'd be afraid again, an hundred times afraid: dying is ceaſing to be afraid, and that I cou'd do ſure for you, and you'll believe me one day. [*Weeps.*

Free. Poor Youth! believe his Eyes, if not his Tongue: he ſeems to ſpeak truth with them.

Man. What, does he cry A Pox on't, a Maudlin Flatterer is as naſeouſly troubleſom, as a Maudlin Drunkard; no more, you little Milk-ſop, do

not

not cry, I'll never make thee afraid again; for all men, if I had occasion thou shoud'st not be my Second; and, when I go to Sea again, thou shalt venture thy life no more with me.

Fid. Why, will you leave me behind then?
(if you wou'd preserve my life, I'm sure you shou'd not.) [*Aside.*

Man. Leave thee behind! Ay, ay, thou art a hopeful Youth for the shore only; here thou wilt live to be cherish'd by Fortune, and the great ones; for thou may'st easily come to out-flatter a dul Poet, out-lye a Coffee-house, or Gazett-writer, out-swear a Knight of the Post, out-watch a Pimp, out fawn a Rook, out-promise a Lover, out-rail a Wit, and out-brag a Sea-Captain: All this thou canst do, because thou'rt a Coward, a thing I hate, therefore thoul't do better with the World than with me, and these are the good courses you must take in the World. There's good advice, at least, at parting; go, and be happy with't.

Fid. Parting, Sir! O let me not hear that dismal word.

Man. If my words frighten thee, be gone the sooner; for to be plain with thee, Cowardice and I cannot dwell together.

Fid. And Cruelty and Courage never dwelt together sure, Sir. Do not turn me off to shame and misery; for I am helpless, and friendless.

Man. Friendless! there are half a score Friends for thee then; [*Offers her Gold.*] I leave my self no more: they'll help thee a little. Be gone, go, I must be cruel to thee (if thou call'st it so) out of pity.

Fid. If you wou'd be cruelly pitiful, Sir, let it be with your Sword, and not Gold. [*Exit.*

Enter first Sailor.

1 *Sail.* We have, with much ado, turn'd away two Gentlemen, who told us forty times over, their names were Mr. *Novel*, and Major *Oldfox*.

Man. Well, to your Post again. [*Exit* Sailor.
But how come those Puppies coupled always together?

Free. O, the Coxcombs keep each other company, to shew each other as *Novel* calls it; or, as *Oldfox* sayes, like two Knives, to whet one another.

Man. And set other peoples teeth an edge.

Enter second Sailor.

2 *Sail.* Here is a Woman, an't like your Honour, scolds and bustles with us, to come in, as much as a Seamans Widow at the *Navy-Office*: her name is Mrs. *Blackacre*.

Man. That Fiend too!

Free. The Widow *Blackacre*, is it not? that Litigious She-Petty fogger, who is at Law and difference with all the World; but I wish I cou'd make her agree with me in the Church: they say she has Fifteen hundred pounds a Year Jointure, and the care of her Son, that is, the Distruction of his Estate.

Man. Her Lawyers, Attornies and Solicitors have Fifteen hundred pound a Year, whil'st she is conrented to be poor, to make other people so; for she is as vexatious as her Father was, the great Attorny, nay, as a dozen *Norfolk* Attornies, and as implacable an Adversary, as a Wife suing for Alimony, or a Parson for his Tiths; and she loves an *Easter* Term, or any Term, not as other Country Ladies do, to come up to be fine, Cuckold their Husbands, and

and take their pleaſure; for ſhe has no pleaſure, but in vexing others, and is uſually cloath'd and dagled like a Baud in diſguiſe, purſu'd through Alleys by Serjeants. When ſhe is in Town, ſhe lodges in one of the Inns of Chancery, where ſhe breeds her Son, and is her ſelf his Tutoreſs in Law-French; and for her Countrey abode, tho' ſhe has no Eſtate there, ſhe chooſes *Norfolk*. But, bid her come in, with a pox to her; ſhe is *Olivia*'s Kinſwoman, and may make me amends for her viſit, by ſome diſcourſe of that dear Woman.

[*Exit* Sailor.

Enter Widow Blackacre *with a Mantle, and a green Bag, and ſeveral Papers in the other hand:* Jerry Blackacre *her Son, in a Gown, laden with green Bags, following her.*

Wid. I never had ſo much to do with a Judges Door-keeper, as with yours; but———

Man. But the incomparable *Olivia*, how does ſhe ſince I went?

Wid. Since you went, my Suit———

Man. Olivia, I ſay, is ſhe well?

Wid. My Suit, if you had not return'd———

Man. Dam your Suit, how dos your Couſin *Olivia*?

Wid. My Suit, I ſay, had been quite loſt; but now——

Man. But now where is *Olivia*? in Town? For———

Wid. For to morrow we are to have a Hearing.

Man. Wou'd you'd let me have a Hearing to day.

Wid. But why won't you hear me?

Man. I am no Judge, and you talk of nothing but Suits; but, pray tell me, when did you ſee *Olivia?*

Wid. I am no Viſiter, but a Woman of buſineſs; or if I ever viſit, 'tis only the *Chancery-lane* Ladies, Ladies towards the Law; and not any of your lazy, good-for-nothing Flirts, who cannot read Law-French, tho' a Gallant writ it. But, as I was telling you, my Suit———

Man. Dam theſe impertinent, vexatious people of Buſineſs, of all Sexes; they are ſtill troubling the World with the tedious recitals of their Law-Suits: and one can no more ſtop their mouths, than a Wit's, when he talks of himſelf; or an Intelligencer's, when he talks of other people.

Wid. And a Pox of all vexatious impertinent Lovers; they are ſtill perplexing the World with the tedious Narrations of their Love-Suits, and Diſcourſes of their Miſtreſſes: you are as troubleſom to a poor Widow of Buſineſs, as a young Coxcomb Rithming Lover.

Man. And thou art as troubleſom to me, as a Rook to a looſing Gamſter, or a young putter of Caſes to his Miſtreſs and Sempſtreſs, who has love in her head for another.

Wid. Nay, ſince you talk of putting of Caſes, and will not hear me ſpeak, hear our *Jerry* a little; let him put our Caſe to you, for the Tryal's to morrow; and ſince you are my chief Witneſs, I wou'd have your memory refreſh'd, and your judgment inform'd that you may not give your evidence improperly. Speak out, Child.

Jer. Yes, forſooth. Hemh! Hemh! *John-a-Stiles*——

Man. You may talk, young Lawyer, but I ſhall no more mind you, than a hungry Judge does a Cauſe, after the Clock has ſtruck One.

Free. Nay, you'll find him as peeviſh too.

Wid. No matter. *Jerry*, go on. Do you obſerve it then, Sir, for I think I have ſeen you in a Gown once. Lord I cou'd hear our *Jerry* put Caſes all day long! Mark him, Sir.

Jer. John-a-Stiles —no——There are firſt, *Fitz*, *Pere*, and *Ayle*; —— No, no, *Ayle*, *Pere*, and *Fitz*; *Ayle* is ſeized in Fee of *Blackacre*; *John-a-Stiles* diſſeiſes *Ayle*; *Ayle* makes Claim, and the Diſſeiſor dies; then the *Ayle*—— no the *Fitz*.

Wid. No, the *Pere*, Sirrah.

Jer. O, the *Pere:* ay, the *Pere*, Sir, and the *Fitz* —— no the *Ayle*; no, the *Pere* and the *Fitz*, Sir, and———

Man. Dam *Pere*, *Mere* and *Fitz*, Sir.

Wid, No, you are out, Child; hear me, Captain, then; there are *Ayle*, *Pere* and *Fitz*, *Ayle* is ſeiſed in Fee of *Blackacre*; and being ſo ſeiſed, *John-a-Stiles* deſſeiſes the *Ayle*, *Ayle* makes Claim, and the diſſeiſor dies; and then the *Pere* re enters, the *Pere* Sirrah, the *Pere* — [*To* Jerry.] And the *Fitz* enters upon the *Pere*, and the *Ayle* brings his Writ of Diſſeizen, in the *Poſt*; and the *Pere* brings his Writ of Diſſeizen, in the *Pere*, and ——

Man. Canſt thou hear this ſtuff, *Freeman*? I cou'd as ſoon ſuffer a whole noiſe of Flatterers at a great mans Levy in a morning; but thou haſt ſervile complacency enough to liſten to a quibling Stateſman, in diſgrace, nay, and be before-hand with him, in laughing at his dull No-jeſt; but I——— [*Offering to go out.*

Wid. Nay, Sir, hold. Where's the *Sub-pœna*, *Jerry*? I muſt ſerve you, Sir. You are requir'd, by this, to give your teſtimony———

Man. I'le be forſworn, to be reveng'd on thee. [*Ex.* Manly *throwing away the* Sub-pœna.

Wid. Get you gone, for a Lawleſs companion. Come, *Jerry*, I had almoſt forgot we were to meet at the Maſters at three: let us mind our buſineſs ſtill, Child.

Jer. I, forſooth, e'en ſo let's.

Free. Nay, Madam, now I wou'd beg you to hear me a little, a little of my buſineſs.

Wid. I have buſineſs of my own calls me away, Sir.

Free. My buſineſs wou'd prove yours too, dear Madam.

Wid. Yours wou'd be ſome ſweet buſineſs, I warrant: What, 'tis no *Weſt-minſter-Hall* buſineſs? wou'd you have my advice?

Free. No, faith 'tis a little *Weſt-minſter-Abby* buſineſs: I wou'd have your conſent.

Wid. O fie, fie, Sir; to me ſuch diſcourſe, before my dear Minor there!

Jer. Ay, ay, Mother, he wou'd be taking Livery and Seizen of your Jointure, by digging the Turf; but I'll watch your waters, Bully, ifac. Come away, Mother. [*Ex* Jerry, *hailing away his Mother.*

Manet

Manet Freeman: *Enter to him* Fidelia.

Fid. Dear Sir, you have pity; beget but ſome in our Captain for me.

Free. Where is he?

Fid. Within; ſwearing, as much as he did in the great Storm, and curſing you, and ſometimes ſinks into calms and ſighs, and talks of his *Olivia*.

Free. He wou'd never truſt me to ſee her: is ſhe handſom?

Fid. No, if you'll take my word; but I am not a proper Judge.

Free. What is ſhe?

Fid. A Gentlewoman, I ſuppoſe, but of as mean a Fortune as Beauty; but her Relations wou'd not ſuffer her to go with him to the *Indies*: and his averſion to this ſide of the World, together with the late opportunity of commanding the Convoy, wou'd not let him ſtay here longer, tho' to enjoy her.

Free. He loves her mightily then.

Fid. Yes, ſo well, that the remainder of his Fortune (I hear about five or ſix thouſand pounds) he has left her, in caſe he had dy'd by the way, or before ſhe cou'd prevail with her Friends to follow him, which he expected ſhe ſhou'd do; and has left behind him his great boſom Friend to be her Convoy to him.

Free. What Charms has ſhe for him, if ſhe be not handſom?

Fid. He fancies her, I ſuppoſe, the only Woman of Truth and Sincerity in the World.

Free. No Common Beauty, I confeſs.

Fid Or elſe ſure he wou'd not have truſted her with ſo great a ſhare of his fortune, in his abſence; I ſuppoſe (ſince his late loſs) all he has.

Free. Why, has he left it in her own cuſtody?

Fid. I am told ſo.

Free. Then he has ſhewed Love to her indeed, in leaving her, like an old Husband that dies as ſoon as he has made his Wife a good Jointure; but I'll go in to him, and ſpeak for you, and know more from him of his *Olivia*.

[*Exit.*

Manet Fidelia *ſola.*

Fid. His *Olivia* indeed, his happy *Olivia*,
Yet ſhe was left behind, when I was with him;
But ſhe was ne'r out of his mind or heart.
She has told him ſhe lov'd him; I have ſhew'd it,
And durſt not tell him ſo, till I had done,
Under this habit, ſuch convincing Acts
Of loving Friendſhip for him, that through it
He firſt might find out both my Sex and Love;
And, when I'd had him from his fair *Olivia*,
And this bright world of artful Beauties here,
Might then have hop'd, he wou'd have look'd on me
Amongſt the ſooty *Indians*; and I cou'd
To chooſe there live his Wife, where Wives are forc'd
To live no longer, when their Husbands die.
Nay, what's yet worſe, to ſhare 'em whil'ſt they live
With many Rival Wives. But here he comes,

And I muſt yet keep out of his ſight, not
To loſe it for ever. [*Exit.*

Enter Manly *and* Freeman.

Free. But what ſtrange Charms has ſhe that cou'd make you love?

Man. Strange Charms indeed! She has Beauty, enough to call in queſtion her Wit or Vertue, and her Form wou'd make a ſtarved Hermit a Raviſher; yet her vertue, and Conduct, wou'd preſerve her from the ſubtil Luſt of a pamper'd Prelate. She is ſo perfect a Beauty, that Art cou'd not better it, nor Affection deform it; yet all this is nothing. Her tongue as well as face, ne'r knew artifice: nor ever did her words or looks contradict her heart: She is all truth, and hates the lying, masking, daubing World, as I do; for which I love her, and for which I think ſhe diſlikes not me: for ſhe has often ſhut out of her converſation for mine, the gaudy fluttering Parrots of the Town, Apes, and Ecchoes of men only, and refus'd their common place pert, chat, flattery, and ſubmiſſions, to be entertain'd with my ſullen bluntneſs, and honeſt love. And, laſt of all, ſwore to me, ſince her Parents wou'd not ſuffer her to go with me, ſhe wou'd ſtay behind for no other man; but follow me, without their leave, if not to be obtain'd. Which Oath——

Free. Did you think ſhe wou'd keep?

Man. Yes; for ſhe is not (I tell you) like other Women, but can keep her promiſe, tho' ſhe has ſworn to keep it; but, that ſhe might the better keep it, I left her the value of five or ſix thouſand pounds: for Womens wants are generally their moſt importunate Solicitors to Love or Marriage.

Free. And Money ſummons Lovers, more than Beauty, and augments but their importunity, and their number; ſo makes it the harder for a Woman to deny 'em. For my part, I am for the *French* Maxim, if you wou'd have your Female Subjects Loyal, keep 'em poor: but, in ſhort, that your Miſtreſs may not marry, you have given her a Portion.

Man. She had given me her heart firſt, and I am ſatisfied with the ſecurity; I can never doubt her truth and conſtancy.

Free. It ſeems you do, ſince you are fain to bribe it with Money. But how come you to be ſo diffident of the Man that ſayes he loves you, and not doubt the Woman that ſayes it?

Man. I ſhou'd (I confeſs) doubt the Love of any other Woman but her, as I do the friendſhip of any other Man but him I have truſted; but I have ſuch proofs of their faith, as cannot deceive me.

Free. Cannot!

Man. Not but I know, that generally, no man can be a great Enemy, but under the name of Friend; and if you are a cuckold, it is your Friend only that makes you ſo; for your Enemy is not admitted to your houſe: if you are cheated in your Fortune, 'tis your Friend that does it; for your Enemy is not made your Truſtee: if your Honour, or Good Name be injur'd, 'tis your Friend that does it ſtill, becauſe your Enemy is not believ'd againſt you. Therefore I rather chooſe to go where honeſt, downright Barbarity is profeſt, where men devour one another like generous hungry Lyons and Tygers, not like Crocodiles; where they think the Devil white, of our complexion, and I am already ſo far an *Indian*: but if your weak faith doubts this miracle

miracle of a Woman, come along with me, and believe, and thou wilt find her ſo handſom, that thou, who art ſo much my Friend, wilt have a mind to lie with her, and ſo will not fail to diſcover what her faith and thine is to me.

When we're in Love, the great Adverſity,
Our Friends and Miſtreſſes at once we try.

Finis Actus Primi.

ACT II. SCENE I.

Olivia's *Lodging.*

Enter Olivia, Eliza, Lettice.

Oliv. AH, Couſin, what a World 'tis we live in! I am ſo weary of it.

Eliz. Truly, Couſin, I can find no fault with it, but that we cannot always live in't; for I can never be weary of it.

Oliv. O hidious! you cannot be in earneſt ſure, when you ſay you like the filthy World.

Eliz. You cannot be in earneſt ſure, when you ſay you diſlike it.

Oliv. You are a very cenſorious Creature, I find.

Eliz. I muſt confeſs I think we Women as often diſcover where we love by railing; as men when they lye, by their ſwearing; and the World is but a conſtant Keeping Gallant, whom we fail not to quarrel with, when any thing croſſes us, yet cannot part with't for our hearts.

Let. A Gallant indeed, Madam, whom Ladies firſt make jealous, and then quarrel with it for being ſo, for if, by her indiſcretion, a Lady be talk'd of for a Man, ſhe cryes preſently, *'Tis a Cenſorious World*; if, by her vanity, the Intrigue be found out, *'Tis a prying, malicious World*; and if, by her over-fondneſs, the Gallant proves unconſtant, *'Tis a falſe World*, and if, by her nigardlineſs, the Chamber maid tells, *'Tis a perfidious World*: but that, I'm ſure, your Ladiſhip cannot ſay of the World yet, as bad as 'tis.

Oliv. But I may ſay, *'Tis a very impertinent World.* Hold your peace. And, Couſin, if the World be a Gallant, 'tis ſuch an one as is my averſion. Pray name it no more.

Eliz. But is it poſſible the World, which has ſuch variety of Charms for other Women, can have none for you? Let's ſee——firſt, what d'ye think of Dreſſing, and fine Cloaths?

Oliv. Dreſſing! Fie, fie, 'tis my averſion. But, come hither, you Dowdy; methinks you might have open'd this Toure better: O hidious! I cannot ſuffer it! d'ye ſee how't ſits?

Eliz. Well enough, Couſin, if Dreſſing be your averſion.

Oliv. 'Tis ſo: and for variety of rich Cloaths, they are more my averſion.

Let. Ay, 'tis becauſe your Ladyſhip wears 'em too long; for indeed a Gown, like a Gallant, grows one's averſion, by having too much of it.

Oliv.

Oliv. Inſatiable Creature! I'll be ſworn I have had this not above three days, Couſin, and within this month have made ſome ſix more.

Eliz. Then your averſion to 'em is not altogether ſo great.

Oliv. Alas! 'tis for my Woman only I wear 'em, Couſin.

Let. If it be for me only, Madam, pray do not wear 'em.

Eliz. But what d'ye think of Viſits——Balls——

Oliv. O, I deteſt 'em.

Eliz. Of Playes?

Oliv. I abominate 'em: filthy, obſcene, hideous things?

Eliz. What ſay you to *Maſquerading* in the Winter, and *Hide-park* in the Summer.

Oliv. Inſipid pleaſures I taſte not.

Eliz. Nay, if you are for more ſolid Pleaſures, what think you of a rich young Husband?

Oliv. O horrid! Marriage! what a Pleaſure you have found out! I nauſeate it of all things.

Let. But what does your Ladyſhip think then of a liberal, handſom, young Lover?

Oliv. A handſom, young Fellow, you Impudent! Be gone, out of my ſight; name a handſom young Fellow to me! Foh, a hideous handſom young Fellow I abominate. [*Spits.*

Eliz. Indeed! But let's ſee—— will nothing pleaſe you? what d'ye think of the Court?

Oliv. How? the Court! the Court, Couſin! my averſion, my averſion, my averſion of all averſions.

Eliz. How? the Court! where——

Oliv. Where Sincerity is a quality as out of faſhion, and as unproſperous, as Baſhfulneſs; I cou'd not laugh at a Quibble, tho' it were a fat Privy Councellor's; nor praiſe a Lord's ill Verſes, tho' I were my ſelf the Subject; nor an old Lady's young look's, tho' I were her Woman; nor ſit to a vain young *Simile-maker*, tho' he flatter'd me; in ſhort, I cou'd not glote upon a man when he comes into a Room, and laugh at him when he goes out; I cannot rail at the abſent, to flatter the ſtanders by, I——

Eliz. Well, but railing now is ſo common, that 'tis no more Malice, but the faſhion; and the abſent think they are no more the worſe for being rail'd at, than the preſent think they're the better for being flatter'd: and for the Court-

Oliv. Nay, do not defend the Court; for you'll make me rail at it, like a truſting Citizen's Widow.

Eliz. Or like a *Holborn* Lady, who cou'd not get into the laſt Ball, or was out of countenance in the Drawing-room the laſt Sunday of her appearance there; for none rail at the Court, but thoſe who cannot get into it, or elſe who are ridiculous when they are there; and I ſhall ſuſpect you were laugh'd at, when you were laſt there, or wou'd be a Maid of Honour.

Oliv. I a Maid of Honour! To be a Maid of Honour were yet of all things my averſion.

Eliz. In what ſenſe am I to underſtand you? But in fine, by the Word Averſion, I'm ſure you diſſemble; for I never knew Woman yet that us'd it,

it, who did not. Come, our tongues bely our hearts, more than our Pocket-glaſſes do our faces; but methinks we ought to leave off diſſembling, ſince 'tis grown of no uſe to us; for all wiſe obſervers underſtand us now adays, as they do Dreams, Almanacks, and *Dutch Gazetts*, by the contrary: And a Man no more believes a Woman, when ſhe ſays ſhe has an Averſion for him, than when ſhe ſays ſhe'll Cry out.

Oliv. O filthy, hideous! Peace, Couſin, or your diſcourſe will be my Averſion; and you may believe me.

Eliz. Yes; for, if any thing be a Womans Averſion, 'tis *Plain-dealing* from another Woman: and perhaps that's your quarrel to the World; for that will talk, as your Woman ſays.

Oliv. Talk not of me ſure; for what Men do I converſe with? what Viſits do I admit?

Enter Boy.

Boy. Here's the Gentleman to wait upon you, Madam.

Oliv. On me! you little, unthinking Fop, d'ye know what you ſay?

Boy. Yes, Madam, 'tis the Gentleman that comes every day to you, who——

Oliv. Hold your peace, you heedleſs little Animal, and get you gone. This Country Boy, Couſin, takes my Dancing-maſter, Taylor, or the ſpruce Millener, for Viſiters. [*Exit* Boy.

Let. No, Madam, 'tis Mr. *Novel*, I'm ſure, by his talking ſo loud: I know his voice too, Madam.

Olive. You know nothing, you Buffle-headed, ſtupid Creature you; you wou'd make my Couſin believe I receive Viſits: But if it be Mr.——what did you call him?

Let. Mr. *Novel*, Madam, he that——

Oliv. Hold your peace, I'll hear no more of him; but if it be your Mr.——(I can't think of his name again) I ſuppoſe he has follow'd my Couſin hither.

Eliz. No, Couſin, I will not rob you of the Honour of the Viſit: 'tis to you, Couſin, for I know him not.

Oliv. Nor did I ever hear of him before, upon my Honour, Couſin; beſides, ha'nt I told you, that Viſits, and the buſineſs of Viſits, Flattery, and Detraction, are my Averſion? D'ye think then I wou'd admit ſuch a Coxcomb as he is? who, rather than not rail, will rail at the dead, whom none ſpeak ill of; and rather than not flatter, will flatter the Poets of the Age, whom none will flatter; who affects Novelty as much as the Faſhion; and is as fantaſtical as changeable, and as well known as the Faſhion; who likes nothing, but what is new; nay, wou'd chooſe to have his friend, or his Title, a new one. In fine, he is my Averſion.

Eliz. I find you do know him, Couſin; at leaſt, have heard of him.

Oliv. Yes, now I remember, I have heard of him.

Eliz. Well; but ſince he is ſuch a Coxcomb, for heaven's ſake, let him not come up; tell him, Mrs. *Lettice*, your Lady is not within.

Oliv. No, *Lettice*, tell him, my Couſin is here, and that he may come up; for notwithſtanding I deteſt the ſight of him, you may like his converſation; and tho' I wou'd uſe him ſcurvily, I will not be rude to you, in my own Lodging; ſince he has follow'd you hither, let him come up, I ſay.

Eliz.

Eliz. Very fine! Pray let him go to the Devil, I ſay, for me: I know him not, nor deſire it. Send him away, Mrs. *Lettice.*

Oliv. Upon my word, ſhe ſhan't: I muſt diſobey your commands, to comply with your deſires. Call him up, *Lettice.*

Eliz. Nay. I'll ſwear ſhe ſhall not ſtir on that Errand. [*Holds* Lettice.

Oliv. Well then. I'll call him my ſelf for you, ſince you will have it ſo. Mr. *Novel,* [*Calls out at the door*] Sir, Sir.

Enter Novel.

Novel. Madam I beg your pardon, perhaps you were buſie: I did not think you had company with you.

Eliz. Yet he comes to me, Couſin! [*Aſide.*

Oliv. —Chairs there. [*They ſit.*

Nov. Well, but Madam d'ye know whence I come now?

Oliv. From ſome melancholy place I warrant, Sir, ſince they have loſt your good company.

Eliz. So.

Novel. From a place, where they have treated me, at dinner, with ſo much civility and kindneſs, a pox on'em, that I cou'd hardly get away to you, dear Madam.

Olive. You have a way with you ſo new, and obliging, Sir.

Eliz. You hate Flattery, Couſin! [*Apart to* Olivia.

Nov. Nay faith, Madam, d'ye think my way new? then you are obliging Madam. I muſt confeſs, I hate imitation, to do any thing like other people: all that know me, do me the Honour to ſay, I am an original Faith; but as I was ſaying, Madam I have been treated to day, with all the ceremony and kindneſs imaginable, at my Lady Autums; but the nauſeous old Woman at the upper end of her Table———

Oliv. Revives the old *Grecian* cuſtom, of ſerving in a Deaths head with their Banquets.

Nov. Hah; hah! fine, juſt i'faith; nay, and new: 'tis like eating with the Ghoſt in the *Libertine*; ſhe wou'd frighten a Man from her dinner, with her hollow invitations, and ſpoil one's ſtomack———

Oliv. To Meat or Women. I deteſt her hollow cherry cheeks; ſhe looks like an old Coach new painted: affecting an unſeemly ſmugneſs, whil'ſt ſhe is ready to drop in peices.

Eliz. You hate Detraction I ſee, Couſin! [*Apart to* Olivia.

Nov. But the ſilly old Fury, whil'ſt ſhe affects to look like a Woman of this Age, talks———

Oliv. Like one of the laſt; and as paſſionately as an old Courtier, who has out-liv'd his Office.

Nov. Yes, Madam, but pray let me give you her Character. Then ſhe never counts her age by the years, but———

Oliv. By the Maſques ſhe has liv'd to ſee.

Nov. Nay then, Madam, I ſee you think a little harmleſs railing too great a pleaſure for any but your ſelf, and therefore I've done.

Oliv. Nay, faith, you ſhall tell me who you had there at dinner.

Nov. If you wou'd hear me, Madam.

Oliv

Oliv. Moſt patiently: ſpeak, Sir.

Nov. Then, we had her daughter——

Oliv. Ay, her daughter, the very diſgrace to good cloaths, which ſhe alwayes wears, but to highten her deformity, not mend it; for ſhe is ſtill moſt ſplendidly, gallantly ugly, and looks like an ill piece of daubing in a rich Frame.

Nov. So! But have you done with her, Madam? And can you ſpare her to me a little now?

Oliv. Ay, ay, Sir.

Nov. Then, ſhe is like——

Oliv. She is, you'd ſay, like a City Bride, the greater Fortune, but not the greater Beauty, for her dreſs.

Nov. Well: yet have you done Madam? Then ſhe——

Oliv. Then ſhe beſtows as unfortunately on her face, all the graces in faſhion, as the languiſhing eye, the hanging or pouting lip; but as the Fool is never more provoking than when he aims at Wit, the ill-favour'd of our Sex are never more nauſeous then when they wou'd be Beauties, adding to their natural deformity, the artificial uglineſs of affectation.

Eliz. So, Couſin, I find one may have a collection of all ones acquaintances Pictures as well at your houſe, as at Mr. *Lely*'s; only the difference is, there we find'em much handſomer than they are, and like; here, much uglier, and like: and you are the firſt of the profeſſion of Picture-drawing I ever knew without flattery.

Oliv. I draw after the life; do no Body wrong, Couſin.

Eliz. No, you hate flattery and detraction!

Oliv. But, Mr. *Novel*, who had you beſides at dinner?

Nov. Nay, the Devil take me if I tell you, unleſs you will allow me the priviledge of railing in my turn; but, now I think on't, the Woman ought to be your province, as the Men are mine: and you muſt know, we had him whom——

Oliv. Him, whom——

Nov. What, Invading me already? And giving the character, before you know the Man?

Eliz. No, that is not fair, tho' it be uſual.

Oliv. I beg your pardon, Mr. *Novel*, pray, go on.

Nov. Then, I ſay, we had that familiar Coxcomb, who is at home whereſoe're he comes.

Oliv. Ay, that Fool——

Nov. Nay then Madam, your Servant: I'm gone. Taking a Fool out of on's mouth, is worſe than taking the Bread out of ones mouth.

Oliv. I've done, your pardon, Mr. *Novel*, pray proceed.

Nov. I ſay the Rogue, that he may be the only Wit in company, will let no Body elſe talk, and——

Oliv. Ay, thoſe Fops who love to talk all themſelves, are of all things my Averſion.

Nov. Then you'll let me ſpeak, Madam, ſure, The Rogue, I ſay, will force his jeſt upon you; and I hate a jeſt that's forc'd upon a Man, as much as a Glaſs.

Eliz. Why, I hope, Sir he does not expect a Man of your temperance in jesting shou'd do him reason?

Nov. What, interruption from this side too! I must the——

[*Offers to rise*, Olivia *holds him.*

Oliv. No, Sir——You must know, Cousin, that Fop he means, tho' he talks only to be commended, will not give you leave to do't.

Nov. But, Madam ——

Oliv. He a Wit! hang him, he's only an Adopter of strangling Jests, and fatherless Lampoons; by the credit of which, he eats at good Tables, and so like the Barren Beggar-woman lives by borrow'd Children.

Nov. Madam——

Oliv. And never was Author of any thing, but his news; but that is still all his own.

Nov. Madam, pray——

Oliv. An eternal Babler; and makes no more use of his ears, than a Man that sits at a Play by his Mistress, or in Fop corner: he's, in fine, a base detracting Fellow, and is my Aversion. But who else pr'ythee, Mr. *Novel*, was there with you? Nay, you sha'nt stir.

Nov. I beg your pardon, Madam, I cannot stay in any place, where I'm not allow'd a little Christian liberty of railing.

Oliv. Nay pr'ythee, Mr. *Novel*, stay; and, tho' you shou'd rail at me, I wou'd hear you with patience: pr'ythee who else was there with you?

Nov. Your Servant, Madam.

Oliv. Nay, pr'thee tell us, Mr. *Novel*, pr'ythee do.

Nov. We had no body else.

Oliv. Nay, faith I know you had. Come my Lord *Plausible* was there too, who is Cousin, a——

Eliz. You need not tell me what he is, Cousin; for I know him to be a civil good natur'd, harmless Gentleman, that speaks well of all the World, and is alwayes in good humor, and——

Oliv. Hold, Cousin, hold, I hate detraction; but I must tell you, Cousin, his civility, is cowardice; his good nature, want of wit; and has neither courage or sense to rail: And for his being alwayes in humor, 'tis because he is never dissatisfi'd with himself. In fine, he is my Aversion; and I never admit his Visits beyond my Hall.

Nov. No he visit you! Dam him, cringing, grinning Rogue; If I shou'd see him comming up to you, I wou'd make bold to kick him down again. Ha!——

Enter my Lord Plausible.

My dear Lord, your most humble Servant.

[*Rises, and salutes* Plausible, *and kisses him.*

Eliz. So I find kissing and railing succeed each other with the angry Men, as well as with the angry Women; and their quarrels are like Love quarrels, since absence is the only cause of them; for, as soon as the Mam appears again, they are over. [*Aside.*

L. Plaus. Your most faithful, humble Servant, generous Mr. *Novel*; and Madam, I am your eternal Slave, and kiss your fair hands; which I had done sooner,

ſooner, according to your commands, but——

Oliv. No excuſes, my Lord.

Eliz. What you ſent for him then, Couſin? [*Apart.*

Nov. Ha! invited! [*Aſide.*

Oliv. I know you muſt divide your ſelf; for your good company is too general a good, to be ingroſs'd by any particular Friend.

L. *Plauſ.* O Lord, Madam, my company! your moſt obliged, faithful, humble Servant; but I cou'd have brought you good company indeed, for I parted at your door with two of the worthieſt, braveſt Men——

Oliv. Who were they, my Lord?

Nov. Who do you cal the worthieſt, braveſt men, pray?

L. *Plauſ.* O the wiſeſt, braveſt Gentlemen! Men of ſuch Honour, and Virtue! of ſuch good qualities! ah——

Eliz. This is a Coxcomb, that ſpeaks ill of all people a different way, and Libels every body with dull praiſe, and commonly in the wrong place, ſo makes his Panegyricks abuſive Lampoons. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. But pray let me know who they were.

L. *Plauſ.* Ah! ſuch patterns of Heroick Virtue! ſuch——

Nov. Well, but who the Devil were they?

L. *Plauſ.* The Honour of our Nation, the glory of our Age, ah! I cou'd dwell a Twelvemonth on their praiſe; which indeed I might ſpare by telling their names: Sir *John Current*, and Sir *Richard Court-Title*.

Nov. Court-Title! Hah, ha.

Oliv. And Sir *John Current*! Why will you keep ſuch a Wretch company, my Lord?

L. *Plauſ.* Oh, Madam, ſeriouſly you are a little too ſevere; for he is a Man of unqueſtion'd reputation in every thing.

Oliv. Yes, becauſe he endeavours only with the Women, to paſs for a man of Courage; and with the Bullies, for a Wit; with the Wits, for a Man of Buſineſs; and with the men of Buſineſs, for a Favourite at Court: and at Court, for good City ſecurity.

Nov. And for *Sir Richard*, he——

L. *Plauſ.* He loves your choice, pick'd company; perſons that——

Oliv. He loves a Lord indeed; but——

Nov. Pray, dear Madam, let me have but a bold ſtroke or two at his Picture. He loves a Lord as you ſay, tho'——

Oliv. Tho' he borrow'd his Money, and ne'r paid him again.

Nov. And wou'd beſpeak a place three days before at the back-end of a Lords Coach, to *Hide-Park*.

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, i'faith, i'faith, you are both too ſevere.

Oliv. Then, to ſhew yet more his paſſion for quality, he makes love to that fulſom Coach-load of Honour, my *Lady Goodly*; for he is always at her Lodging.

L. *Plauſ.* Becauſe it the Conventicle-Gallant, the Meeting-houſe of all the fair Ladies, and glorious Superfine Beauties of the Town.

Nov. Very fine Ladies! there's firſt——

Oliv. Her Honour, as fat as an Hoſteſs.

L. *Plauſ.* She is ſomething plump indeed, a goodly, comely, graceful perſon.

Nov. Then ther's my *Lady Frances*, what d'ye call'er? ugly——.

Oliv. As a Citizens lawfully begotten Daughter.

L. *Plauſ.* She has wit in abundance; and the handſomeſt heel, elbow, and tip of an ear, you ever ſaw.

Nov. Heel, and elbow! hah, ha! And there's my *Lady Betty* yon know——

Oliv. As ſluttiſh, and flatternly, as an *Iriſh* Woman bred in *France*.

L. *Plauſ.* Ah, all ſhe has hangs with a looſe Air indeed, and becoming negligence.

Eliz. You ſee all faults with Lovers eyes, I find my Lord.

L. *Plauſ.* Ah, Madam, your moſt obliged, faithful, humble Servant to command! But you can ſay nothing ſure againſt the Superfine Miſtreſs——

Oliv. I know who you mean. She is as cenſorious and detracting a Jade, as a ſuperannuated Sinner.

L. *Plauſ.* She has a ſmart way of Railery, 'tis confeſt.

Nov. And then, for Mrs. *Grideline*.

L. *Plauſ.* She I'am ſure is ——

Oliv. One that never ſpoke ill of any body, 'tis confeſt; for ſhe is as ſilent in converſation as a Country-Lover, and no better company than a Clock, or a Weather-glaſs; for if ſhe ſounds, 'tis but once an hour, to put you in mind of the time of day, or tell you 'twill be cold or hot, rain or ſnow.

L. *Plauſ.* Ah, poor creature! ſhe's extreamly good and modeſt.

Nov. And for Mrs. *Bridlechin*, ſhe, s——

Oliv. As proud as a Churchman's Wife.

L. *Plauſ.* She's a Woman of great ſpirit and honour, and will not make her ſelf cheap, 'tis true.

Nov. Then Mrs. *Hoyden*, that calls all people by their Sirnames, and is—

Oliv As familiar a Duck——

Nov. As an Actreſs in the Tyring-room. There I was once before-hand with you, Madam.

L. *Plauſ.* Mrs. *Hoyden!* a poor, affable, good-natur'd Soul! But the Divine Mrs. *Triſle* comes thither too: ſure her beauty, virtue and conduct, you can ſay nothing too.

Oliv. No!

Nov. No!—pray let me ſpeak, Madam.

Oliv. Firſt, can any one be call'd beautiful that ſquints.

L. *Plauſ.* Her eyes languiſh a little, I own.

Nov. Languiſh! hah, ha.

Oliv. Languiſh! Then, for her conduct, ſhe was ſeen at the *Country Wife*, after the firſt day. There's for you, my Lord.

L. *Plauſ.* But, Madam, ſhe was not ſeen to uſe her Fan all the Play long, turn aſide her head, or by a conſcious bluſh, diſcover more guilt than modeſty.

Oliv. Very fine! then you think a Woman modeſt, that ſees the hideous *Country Wife*, without bluſhing, or publiſhing her deteſtation of it? D'ye here him Couſin?

Eliz. Yes; and am, I muſt confeſs, ſomething of his opinion, and think that as an over-captious Fool at a Play, by endeavouring to ſhew the Author's

thor's want of Wit, expoſes his own to more cenſure: ſo may a Lady call her own modeſty in queſtion, by publickly cavilling with the Poets; for all thoſe grimaces of honour, and artificial modeſty, diſparage a Woman's real Virtue, as much as the uſe of white and red does the natural complexion; and you muſt uſe very, very little, if you wou'd have it thought your own.

Oliv. Then you wou'd have a Woman of Honour with paſſive looks, ears, and tongue, undergo all the hideous obſcenity ſhe hears at naſty Plays?

Eliz. Truly I think a Woman betrays her want of modeſty, by ſhewing it publickly in a Play-houſe, as much as a Man does his want of courage by a quarrel there; for the truly modeſt and ſtout ſay leaſt, and are leaſt exceptious, eſpecially in publick.

Oliv. O hideous! Couſin, this cannot be your opinion; but you are one of thoſe who have the confidence to pardon the filthy Play.

Eliz. Why, what is there of ill in't, ſay you?

Oliv. O fie, fie, fie, wou'd you put me to the bluſh anew? call all the blood into my face again? But to ſatisfie you then, firſt the clandeſtine obſcenity in the very name of *Horner*.

Eliz. Truly, 'tis ſo hidden, I cannot find it out, I confeſs.

Oliv. O horrid! does not it give you the rank conception, or image of a Goat, or Town-bull, or a Satyr? nay, what is yet a filthier image than all the reſt, that of an *Eunuch*?

Eliz. What then? I can think of a Goat, a Bull, or Satyr, without any hurt.

Oliv. I, but, Couſin, one cannot ſtop there.

Eliz. I can, Couſin.

Oliv. O no; for when you have thoſe filthy creatures in your head once, the next thing you think, is what they do; as their defiling of honeſt Mens Beds and Couches, Rapes upon ſleeping and waking Country Virgins, under Hedges, and on Haycocks: nay, further——

Eliz. Nay, no farther, Couſin, we have enough of your Comment on the Play, which will make me more aſham'd than the Play it ſelf.

Oliv. O, believe me, 'tis a filthy Play, and you may take my word for a filthy Play, as ſoon as anothers; but the filthieſt thing in that Play, or any other Play, is——

Eliz. Pray keep it to your ſelf, if it be ſo.

Oliv. No, faith, you ſhall know it, I'm reſolv'd to make you out of love with the Play, I ſay, the lewdeſt, filthieſt thing, is his *China*; nay, I will never forgive the beaſtly Author his *China*: he has quite taken away the reputation of poor *China* it ſelf, and ſully'd the moſt innocent and pretty Furniture of a Ladies Chamber; inſomuch, that I was fain to break all my defil'd Veſſels. You ſee I have none left; nor you, I hope.

Eliz. You'll pardon me, I cannot think the worſe of my *China*, for that of the Play-houſe.

Oliv. Why, you will not keep any now ſure! 'tis now as unfit an ornament for a Ladies Chamber, as the Pictures that come from *Italy*, and other hot Countries, as appears by their nudities, which always cover, or ſearch out, whereſoe're I find 'em. But *China*! out upon't filthy *China*, naſty, debauch,d *China*!

Eliz.

Eliz. All this will not put me out of conceit with *China*, nor the Play, which is acted to day, or another of the ſame beaſtly Author's as you call him, which I'll go ſee.

Oliv. You will not ſure! nay, you ſha'not venture your reputation by going, and mine by leaving me alone with two men here: nay, you'll diſoblige me for ever, if——— [*Pulls her back.*

Eliz. I ſtay!—your Servant. [*Exit* Eliza.

Oliv. Well—but my Lord, tho' you juſtifie every body, you cannot in earneſt uphold ſo beaſtly a Writer, whoſe Ink is ſo ſmutty, as one may ſay.

L. *Plauſ.* Faith, I dare ſwear the poor man did not think to diſoblige the Ladies, by any amorous, ſoft paſſionate, luſcious ſaying in his Play.

Oliv. Foy, my Lord; but what think you, Mr. *Novel*, of the Play? tho' I know you are my Friend to all that are new.

Nov. Faith, Madam, I muſt confeſs, the new Plays wou'd not be the worſe for my advice, but I cou'd never get the ſilly Rogues, the Poets, to mind what I ſay; but i'll tell you what counſel I gave the ſurly Fool you ſpake of.

Oliv. What was't?

Nov. Faith to put this Play into Rithme; for Rithme, you know often makes myſtical Nonſence paſs with the Criticks for Wit, and a double meaning ſaying with the Ladies, for ſoft, tender, and moving paſſion. But now I talk of paſſion, I ſaw your old Lover this morning——Captain——

[*Whiſpers.*

Enter Captain Manly, Freeman *and* Fidelia *ſtanding behind.*

Oliv. Whom?—nay, you need not whiſper.

Man. We are luckily got hither unobſerv'd:—How! in a cloſe converſation with theſe ſupple Raſcals, the Out-caſts of Sempſtreſſes ſhops!

Free. Faith pardon her, Captain, that ſince ſhe cou'd no longer be entertain'd with your manly bluntneſs, and honeſt love, ſhe takes up with the pert chat and common-place flattery of theſe fluttering Parrots of the Town, Apes and Ecchoes of Men only.

Man. Do not you, Sir, play the Ecchо too, mock me, dully with my own words, and ſhew your ſelf as impertinent as they are.

Free. Nay, Captain——

Fid. Nay, Lieutenant, do not excuſe her, methinks ſhe looks very kindly upon 'em both, and ſeems to be pleas'd with what that Fool there ſayes to her.

Man. You lye, Sir, and hold your peace, that I may not be provok'd to give you a worſe reply.

Oliv. Manly return'd, d'ye ſay! And is he ſafe?

Nov. My Lord ſaw him too. Heark you, my Lord.

[*Whiſpers to* Plauſible.

Man. She yet ſeems concern'd for my ſafety, and perhaps they are admitted now here but for their news of me; for Intelligence indeed is the common Paſsport of nauſeous Fools, when they go their round of good Tables and Houſes. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. I heard of his fighting only, without particulars, and confeſs I always lov'd his Brutal courage, becauſe it made me hope it might rid me of his

his more Brutal love.

Man. What's that? [*Apart.*

Oliv. But is he at last return'd, d'ye say, unhurt?

Nov. Ay faith, without doing his business; for the Rogue has been these two years pretending to a wooden Leg, which he wou'd take from Fortune, as kindly as the Staff of a Marshal of *France*, and rather read his name in a *Gazet*—

Oliv. Then in the Entail of a good Estate.

Man. So! —— [*Aside.*

Nov. I have an Ambition, I must confess, of losing my heart, before such a fair Enemy as your self, Madam, but that silly Rogues shou'd be ambitious of losing their Arms, and——

Oliv. Looking like a pair of Compasses.

Nov. But he has no use of his Arms, but to set 'em on Kimbow, for he never pulls off his Hat, at least not to me, I'm sure; for you must know, Madam, he has a fanatical hatred to stood Company: he can't abide me.

L. Plaus. O, be not so severe to him, as to say he hates good Company; for I assure you he has a great respect, esteem and kindness for me.

Man. That kind, civil Rogue has spoken yet ten thousand times worse of me, than't other.

Oliv. Well, if he be return'd, Mr *Novel*, then shall I be pester'd again with his boisterous Sea-love; have my Alcove smell like a Cabin, my Chamber presumed with his Tarpaulin Brandenburgh, and hear vollies of Brandy sighs, enough to make a Fog in ones Room. Foh! I hate a Lover that smells like *Thames-street*.

Man. I can bear no longer, and need hear no more. [*Aside.*
But, since you have these two Pulvillio Boxes, these Essence Bottles, this pair of Musk-Cats here, I hope I may venture to come yet nearer you.

Oliv. Over-heard us then?

Nov. I hope he heard me not. [*Aside.*

L. Plaus. Most noble and heroick Captain, your most oblig'd, faithfull, humble Servant.

Nov. Dear Tar, thy humble Servant.

Man. Away —— Madam ——

Oliv. Nay, I think I have fitted you for listning.

[*Thrusts* Novel *and* Plausible *on each side.*

Man. You have fitted me, for believing you cou'd not be fickle, tho' you were young; cou'd not dissemble Love, tho' 'twas your interest; nor be in vain, tho' you were handsom; nor break your promise, tho' to a parting Lover; nor abuse your best Friend, tho' you had Wit: but I take not your contempt of me worse, than your esteem, or civility for these things here, tho' you know 'em.

Nov. Things!

L. Plaus. Let the Captain Railly a little.

Man. Yes, things; canst thou be angry, thou thing?

[*Comming up to* Novel.

Nov. No, since my Lord sayes you speak in Raillery; for though your Sea-raillery be something rough, yet I confess we use one another to as bad every day,

day, at *Lockets*, and never quarrel for the matter.

L. Plauſ. Nay, noble Captain, be not angry with him: A word with you, I beſeech you—— [*Whiſp to* Manly.

Oliv. Well, we Women like the reſt of the Cheats of the World, when our Cullies or Creditors have found us out, and will, or can truſt no longer, pay Debts, and ſatisfie Obligations, with a quarrel, the kindeſt Preſent a Man can make to his Miſtreſs, when he can make no more Preſents: for oftentimes in love, as at cards, we are forc'd to play foul, only to give over the game; and uſe our Lovers, like the Cards, when we can get no more by'em throw'em up in a pet, upon the firſt diſpute. [*Aſide.*

Man. My Lord, all that you have made me know by your whiſpering, which I knew not before, is, that you have a ſtinking breath: there's a ſecret, for your ſecret.

L. Plauſ. Pſhaw! pſhaw!

Man. But, Madam, tell me, pray, what was't, about this Spark, cou'd take you? was it the merit of his faſhionable impudence, the briskneſs of his noiſe, the wit of his laugh, his judgment: or fancy in his garniture? or was it a well-trim'd Glove, or the ſcent of of it that charm'd you?

Nov. Very well, Sir, 'gad theſe Sea-Captains make nothing of dreſſing: but let me tell you, Sir, a man by his dreſs, as much as by any thing, ſhews his wit and judgment, nay, and his courage too.

Fre. How his Courage, Mr. *Novel*?

Nov. Why, for example, by red breeches, tuck'd up Hair or Perruke, a greaſie Broad Belt, and now adayes a ſhort Sword.

Man. Thy courage will appear more by thy Belt, than thy Sword, I dare ſwear. Then, Madam, for this gentle piece of courteſy, this Man of tame honour, what cou'd you find in him? was it his languiſhing affected tone? his mannerly look? his ſecond-hand flattery, the refuſe of the Play-Houſe tiring-rooms? or his ſlaviſh obſequiouſnes, in watching at the door of your Box at the Play-Houſe, for your hand to your Chair? or his janty way of playing with your Fan? or was it the Gunpowder ſpot on his hand, or the Jewel in his ear, that purchas'd your heart?

Oliv. Good jealous Captain, no more of your——

L. Plauſ. No, let him go on, Madam, for perhaps he may make you laugh: and I would contribute to your Pleaſure any way.

Man. Gentle Rogue!

Oliv. No, noble Captain, you cannot ſure think any thing cou'd take me more than that heroick Title of yours, Captain; for you know we Women love honour inordinately.

Nov. Hah, ha, faith ſhe is with thee, Bully, for thy Railery.

Man. Faith ſo ſhall I be with you, no Bully, for your grinning. [*Aſide to* Novil.

Oliv. then that noble Lyon-like meen of yours, that Soldier-like weather-beaten complexion, and that manly ronghneſs of your voice; how can they otherwiſe than charm us Women, who hate Effeminacy!

Nov. Hah, ha! faith I can't hold from laughing.

Man. Nor ſhall I from kicking anon. [*Aſide to* Novel.

Oliv.

Oliv. And then, that Captain-like careleſneſs in your dreſs, but eſpecially your Scarf; 'twas juſt ſuch another, only a little higher ty'd, made me in love with my Taylor as he paſt by my Window the laſt Training day; for we Women adore a Martial Man, and you have nothing wanting to make you more one, or more agreeable, but a wooden Leg.

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, i'faith, there your Ladyſhip was a Wag, and it was fine, juſt, and well Railly'd.

Nov. Ay, ay, Madam, with you Ladies too, Martial Men muſt needs be very killing.

Man. Peace, you *Bartholomew-Fair Buffoons*; and be not you vain that theſe laugh on you ſide, for they will laugh at their own dull jeſts: but no more of 'em, for I will only ſuffer now this Lady to be witty and merry.

Oliv. You wou'd not have your Panegyrick interrupted. I go on then to your humour. Is there any thing more agreeable, than the pretty ſullenneſs of that? than the greatneſs of your courage? which moſt of all appears in your ſpirit of contradiction, for you dare give all Mankind the lye; and your Opinion is your only Miſtreſs, for you renounce that too, when it becomes another Mans.

Nov. Hah, hah! I cannot hold, I muſt laugh at thee Tar, faith!

L. *Plauſ.* And i'faith, dear Captain, I beg your pardon, and leave to laugh at you too, tho' I proteſt I mean you no hurt; but, when a Lady Rallies, a ſtander by muſt be complaiſant, and do her reaſon in laughing: Hah, ha.

Man, Why, you impudent, pitiful Wretches, you preſume ſure upon your Effeminacy to urge me; for you are in all things ſo like Women, that you may think it in me a kind of Cowardice to beat you.

Oliv. No Hectoring, good Captain.

Man. Or, perhaps, you think this Ladies preſence ſecures you; but have a care, ſhe has talk'd her ſelf out of all the reſpect I had for her; and by uſing me ill before you, has given me a priviledge of uſing you ſo before her; but if you wou'd preſerve your reſpect to her, and not be beaten before her, go, be gone immediately.

Nov. Be gone! what?

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, worthy, noble, generous Captain.

Man. Be gone, I ſay.

Nov. Be gone again! to us be gone!

Man. No chattering, Baboons, inſtantly be gone. Or——

[Manly *puts 'em out of the Room:* Novel *ſtruts*, Plauſible *cringes.*

Nov. Well, Madam, we'll go make the Cards ready in your Bed-Chamber; ſure you will not ſtay long with him. [*Ex.* Plauſ. Nov.

Oliv. Turn hither your rage, good Captain Swagger-huff, and be ſaucy with your Miſtreſs, like a true Captain; but be civil to your Rivals and Betters, and do not threaten any thing but me here; no, not ſo much as my Windows, nor do not think your ſelf in the Lodgings of one of your Suburb Miſtreſſes beyond the *Tower.*

Man. Do not give me cauſe to think ſo, for thoſe leſs infamous Women part with their Lovers, juſt as you did from me, with unforc'd vows of conſtancy, and floods of willing tears; but the ſame winds bear away their

Lovers, and their vows: And for their grief, if the credulous unexpected Fools return, they find new Comforters, freſh Cullies, ſuch as I found here. The mercenary love of thoſe Women too ſuffers ſhipwrack, with their Gallants fortunes; now you have heard *Chance* has us'd me ſcurvily, therefore you do too. Well, perſevere in your ingratitude, falſhood, and diſdain; have conſtancy in ſomething, and I promiſe you to be as juſt to your real ſcorn, as I was to your feign'd love: And henceforward will diſpiſe, contemn, hate, loath, and deteſt you, moſt faithfully.

Enter Lettice.

Oliv. Get the Hombre Cards ready in the next Room, *Lettice*, and—— *Whiſpers to* Lettice.

Free. Bravely reſolv'd, Captain.

Fid. And you'll be ſure to keep your word, I hope, Sir.

Man. I hope ſo too.

Fid. Do you but hope it, Sir? if you are not as good as your word, 'twill be the firſt time you ever brag'd ſure.

Man. She has reſtor'd my reaſon with my heart.

Free. But, now you talk of reſtoring, Captain, there are other things which, next to one's heart, one wou'd not part with; I mean your Jewels and Money, which it ſeems ſhe has, Sir.

Man. What's that to you Sir?

Free. Pardon me, whatſoever is yours, I have a ſhare in't, I'm ſure, which I will not loſe for asking, tho' you may be too generous, or too angry now to do't your ſelf.

Fid. Nay, then I'll make bold to make my claim too. [*Both going towards* Olivia.

Man. Hold, you impertinent, officious Fops—— How have I been deceiv'd! [*Aſide.*

Free. Madam, there are certain Appurtenances to a Lover's heart, call'd Jewels, which always go along with it.

Fid. And which, with Lovers, have no value in themſelves, but from the heart they come with; our Captain's, Madam, it ſeems you ſcorn to keep, and much more will thoſe worthleſs things without it, I am confident.

Oliv. A Gentleman, ſo well made as you are, may be confident—— us eaſie Women cou'd not deny you any thing you ask, if 'twere for you ſelf; but, ſince 'tis for another, I beg your leave to give him my Anſwer. (An agreeable young Fellow this! - And wou'd not be my Averſion!) [*Aſide.*] Captain your young Friend here has a very perſuading Face, I confeſs; yet you might have ask'd me your ſelf for thoſe Trifles you left with me, which (hark you a little, for I dare truſt you with the ſecret - you are a Man of ſo much Honour I'm ſure;) I ſay then, not expecting your return, or hoping ever to ſee you again, I have deliver'd your Jewels to—— [*Aſide to* Man.

Man. Whom?

Oliv. My Husband!

Man. Your Husband!

Oliv. Ay, my Husband; for, ſince you cou'd leave me, I am lately and privately marry'd to one, who is a Man of ſo much Honour and Experience in

in the World, that I dare not ask him for your Jewels again to reſtore 'em to you; leſt he could conclude you never wou'd have parted with 'em to me, on any other ſcore, but the exchange of my Honour: which rather than you'd let me loſe, you'd loſe I'm ſure your ſelf, thoſe Trifles of yours.

Man. Triumphant impudence! but marry'd too!

Oliv. O, ſpeak not ſo loud, my Servants know it not: I am marry'd; there's no reſiſting one's Deſtiny, or Love, you know.

Man. Why did you love him too?

Oliv. moſt paſſionately; nay, love him now, tho' I have marry'd him, and he me: which mutual love, I hope you are too good, too generous a Man to diſturb, by any future claim, or viſits to me. 'Tis ture, he is now abſent in the Country, but returns ſhortly; therefore I beg of you, for your own eaſe and quiet, and my Honour, you will never ſee me more.

Man. I wiſh I never had ſeen you.

Oliv. But if you ſhou'd ever have any thing to ſay to me hereafter, let that young Gentleman there be your Meſſenger.

Man. You wou'd be kinder to him: I find he ſhou'd be welcome.

Oliv. Alas, his Youth wou'd keep my Husband from ſuſpicions, and his viſits from ſcandal; for we Women may have pity for ſuch as he, but no love: And I already think you do not well to ſpirit him away to Sea, and the Sea is already but too rich with the ſpoils of the ſhore.

Man. True perfect Woman! —— If I cou'd ſay any thing more injurious to her now, I wou'd; for I cou'd out-raila bilk'd Whore, or a kick'd Coward: but, now I think on't that were rather to diſcover my love than hatred; and I muſt not talk, for ſomething I muſt do. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. I think I have given him enough of me now, never to be troubled with him again.——— [*Aſide.*

Enter Lettice.

Well, *Lettice*, are the Cards and all ready within? I come then. Captain, I beg your pardon: You will not make one at Hombre?

Man. No, Madam, but I'll wiſh you a little good luck before you go.

Oliv. No, if you wou'd have me thrive, Curſe me; for that you'll do heartily, I ſuppoſe.

Man. Then if you will have it ſo, May all the Curſes light upon you Women ought to fear, and you deſerve; firſt may the Curſe of loving Play attend your ſordid Covetouſneſs, and Forune cheat you, by truſting to her, as you have cheated me; the Curſe of Pride, or a good reputation, fall on your Luſts; the Curſe of Affectation on your Beauty; the Curſe of your Husbands company on your Pleaſures; and the Curſe of your Gallant's diſappointments in his abſence; and the Curſe of ſcorn, jealouſie, or diſpair, on your love: and then the Curſe of loving on.

Oliv. And, to requite all your Curſes, I will only return you your laſt; May the Curſe of loving me ſtill, fall upon your proud hard heart, that cou'd be ſo cruel to me in theſe horrid Curſes: but Heaven forgive you. [*Ex.* Oliv.

Man. Hell and the Devil reward thee.

Free. Well, you ſee now, Miſtreſſes, like Friends are loſt by letting 'em handle your Money; and moſt Women are ſuch kind of Witches, who can

have no power over a Man, unleſs you give 'em Money; but when once they have got any from you, they never leave you, till they have all: therefore I never dare give a Woman a farthing.

Man. Well, there is yet this comfort by loſing one's Money with one's Miſtreſs, a Man is out of danger of getting another; of being made prize again by love; who, like a Pyrate, takes you by ſpreading falſe Colours: but when once you have run your Ship aground, the treacherous Picaroon looſs, ſo by your ruine you ſave your ſelf from ſlavery at leaſt.

Enter Boy.

Boy. Mrs. *Lettice*, her's Madam *Blackacre* come to wait upon her Honour.

Man. D'ye hear that? let us be gone, before ſhe comes; for hence forward I'll avoid the whole damn'd Sex for ever, and Woman as a ſinking Ship. [*Ex.* Man. *and* Fid.

Free. And I'll ſtay, to revenge on her your quarrel to the Sex; for out of love to her Jointure, and hatred to buſineſs, I wou'd marry her, to make an end of her thouſand Suits, and my thouſand engagements, to the comfort of two unfortunate ſorts of people; my Plaintiffs, and her Defendants; my Creditors, and her Adverſaries.

Enter Widow Blackacre *led in by Major* Oldfox, *and* Jerry Blackacre *following, laden with green Bags.*

Wid. 'Tis an arrant Sea-Ruffian, but I am glad I met with him at laſt, to ſerve him again, Major, for the laſt ſervice was not good in Law. *Boy*, *Duck*, *Jerry*, where is my Paper of *Memorandums*? give me Child: ſo. Where is my Couſin *Olivia*, now my kind Relation?

Free. Here is one that wou'd be your kind Relation, Madam.

Wid. What mean you, Sir?

Free. Why, faith, (to be ſhort) to marry you, Widow.

Wid. Is not this the wild rude perſon we ſaw at Captain *Manly's*.

Jerr. Ay, forſooth, an't pleaſe.

Wid. What wou'd you? what are you? Marry me!

Free. Ay faith, for I am a younger Brother, and you are a Widow.

Wid. You are an impertinent perſon, and go about your buſineſs.

Free. I have none, but to Marry thee, Widow.

Wid. But I have other buſineſs, I'd have you to know.

Free. But you have no buſineſs anights, Widow; and I'll make you pleaſanter buſineſs than any you have: for anights, I aſſure you, I am a Man of great buſineſs: for the buſineſs——

Wid. Go, I'm ſure you're an idle fellow.

Free. Try me but, Widow, and employ me as you find my abilities, and induſtry.

Old. Pray be civil to the Lady, Mr.——ſhe is a perſon of quality, a perſon that is no perſon——

Free. Yes, but ſhe's a perſon that is a Widow: be you mannerly to her, becauſe you are to pretend only to be her Squire, to arm her to her Lawyers Chambers; but I will be impudent and baudy, for ſhe muſt love and marry me.

Wid.

Wid. Marry come up, you ſaucy familiar *Jack!* You think with us Widows, 'tis no more than up, and ride. Gad forgive me now adays, every idle, young, hectoring, roaring Companion, with a pair of turn'd red Breeches, and a broad Back, thinks to carry away any Widow, of the beſt degree; but I'd have you to know, Sir, all Widows are not got, like places at Court, by Impudence and Importunity only.

Old. No, no, ſoft, ſoft, you are a young man, and not fit——

Free. For a Widow? Yes ſure, old Man, the fitter.

Old. Go to, go to, if others had not laid in their claims before you—

Free. Not you, I hope.

Old. Why not I, Sir? Sure I am a much more proportionable match for her, than you, Sir; I who am an elder Brother, of a comfortable Fortune, and of equal Years with her.

Wid. How's that? You unmannerly perſon, I'd have you to know, I was born but in *Ann' undec, Caroli prim'*.

Old. Your pardon, Lady, your pardon; be not offended with your very Servant.——But I ſay, Sir, you are a beggarly younger Brother, twenty years younger than her; without any Land or Stock, but your great ſtock of Impudence: therefore what pretenſion can you have to her?

Free. You have made it for me; firſt, becauſe I am a younger Brother.

Wid. Why, is that a ſufficient Plea to a Relict? How appears it, Sir? by what fooliſh cuſtom?

Free. By cuſtom, time out of mind only. Then, Sir, becauſe I have nothing to keep me after her death, I am the likelier to take care of her life. And for my being twenty years younger than her, and having a ſufficient ſtock of Impudence, I leave it to her whether they will be valid exceptious to me, in her Widow's Law or Equity.

Old. Well, ſhe has been ſo long in *Chancery*, that I'll ſtand to her Equity and Decree between us. Come, Lady, pray ſnap up this young Snap at firſt, or we ſhall be troubled with him; give him a City Widow's Anſwer: (that is with all the ill breeding imaginable.) [*Aſide to the Wid.*] Come Madam.

Wid. Well then, to make an end of this fooliſh Wooing, for nothing interrupts buſineſs more; firſt, for your Major——

Old. You declare in my favour then?

Free. What, direct the Court? (Come, young Lawyer, thou ſhal't be a Counſel for me.) [*To* Jerr.

Jerr. Gad, I ſhall betray your Cauſe then, as well as an older Lawyer, never ſtir.

Wid. Firſt, I ſay, for you Major, my walking Hoſpital of an ancient Foundation, thou Bag of Mummy, that wou'dſt fall aſunder, if 'twere not for thy Cere-cloaths——

Old. How, Lady?

Free. Hah, ha——

Jerr. Hey, brave Mother! uſe all Suitors thus, for my ſake.

Wid. Thou wither'd hobling, diſtorted Cripple; nay, thou art a Cripple all over; wou'dſt thou make me the Staff of thy Age, the Crutch of thy Decrepidneſs? Me——

Free.

Free. Well ſaid Widow! faith, thou woud'ſt make a man love thee now, without diſſembling.

Wid. Thou ſenſeleſs, impertinent, quibling, driveling, feeble, paralytic, impotent, fumbling, frigid Nicompoop.

Jerr. Hey, brave Mother, for calling of names, ifac!

Wid. Woud'ſt thou make a Caudlemaker, a Nurſe of me? Can't you be Bed-rid, without a Bed-fellow? Won't your Swan-skins Furrs, Flannels, and the ſcorch'd Trencher keep you warm there? Wou'd you have me your Scotch-warming Pan, with a Pox to you? Me! —

Old. O Heaven's!

Free. I told you I ſhou'd be thought the fitter Man, Major.

Jerr. Ay, you old Fobus, and you wou'd have been my Guardian, wou'd you? to have taken care of my Eſtate that half of't ſhou'd never come to me, by letting long Leaſes at Pepper-corn Rents.

Wid. If I wou'd have marry'd an old Man, 'tis well known I might have marry'd an Earl; nay, what's more, a Judge, and been covered the Winter-nights with the Lambs-skins, which I prefer to the Ermins of Nobles: And doſt thou think I wou'd wrong my poor Minor there, for you?

Free. Your Minor is a chopping Minor, God bleſs him.

[*Strokes* Jerry *on the head.*

Old. Your Minor may be a Major of Horſe or Foot, for his bigneſs; and it ſeems, you will have the cheating of your Minor to your ſelf.

Wid. Pray, Sir, bear Witneſs; Cheat my Minor! I'll bring my Action of the Caſe for the ſlander.

Free. Nay, I wou'd bear falſe Witneſs for the now, Widow, ſince you have done me juſtice, and have thought me the fitter Man for you.

Wid. Fair, and ſoftly Sir, 'tis my Minor's Caſe, more than my own: And I muſt do him juſtice now on you.

Free. How?

Old. So then.

Wid. You are firſt, (I warrant) ſome Renegado from the Inns of Court, and the Law; and thou'lt come to ſuffer for't by the Law: that is, be hang'd.

Jerr. Not about your neck, forſooth, I hope.

Free. But Madam ——

Old. Hear the Court.

Wid. Thou art ſome debauch'd, drunken, leud, hectoring, gaming Companion, and want'ſt ſome Widow's old Gold to nick upon; but, I thank you, Sir, that's for my Lawyers.

Free. Faith, we ſhou'd ne'r quarrel about that; for Guineys wou'd ſerve my turn: but, Widow——

Wid. Thon art a foul-mouth Boaſter of thy Luſt, a meer Bragadochio of thy ſtrength for Wine and Women, and wilt belye thy ſelf more than thou doſt Women, and art every way a baſe deceiver of Women: And wou'd deceive me too, wou'd you?

Free. Nay, faith, Widow, this is Judging without ſeeing the Evidence.

Wid. I ſay, you are a worn-out Whoremaſter, at five and twenty both in Body and Fortune: And cannot be truſted by the Common Wenches of the Town,

Town, leſt you ſhou'd not pay 'em; nor by the Wives of the Town, leſt you ſhou'd pay 'em: ſo you want Women, and wou'd have me your Baud, to procure 'em for you.

Free. Faith, if you had any good Acquaintance, Widow, 'twou'd be civilly done of thee; for I am juſt come from Sea.

Wid. I mean, you wou'd have me keep you; that you might turn Keeper; for poor Widows are only us'd like Bauds by you; you go to Church with us, but to get other Women to lie with. In fine, you are a cheating, chouſing Spendthrift: And having ſold your own Annuity, wou'd waſt my Jointure.

Jerr. And make havock of our Eſtate perſonal, and all our old gilt Plate; I ſhou'd ſoon be picking up all our mortgag'd Apoſtle-Spoons, Bowls and Beakers, out of moſt of the Ale-houſes, betwixt *Hercules Pillars* and the *Boat-ſwain* in *Wapping*: nay, and wou'd be ſcouring amongſt my Trees, and make 'em knock down one another, like routed reeling Watchmen at midnight. Wou'd you ſo, Bully?

Free. Nay, pr'ythee, Widow hear me.

Wid. No, Sir, I'd have you to know, thou pitiful, paltry, lath-back'd Fellow, if I wou'd have marry'd a young Man, 'tis well known, I cou'd have had any young Heir in *Norfolk*; nay the hopefull'ſt young Man this day at the *Kings-Bench Bar*; I that am a Relict and Executrix of known plentiful Aſſets and parts, who underſtand my ſelf and the Law: And wou'd you have me under Covert Baron again? No, Sir, no Covert Baron for me.

Free. But, dear Widow, hear me. I value you only, not your Jointure.

Wid. Nay, Sir, hold there; I know your love to a Widow, is covetouſneſs of her Jointure: And a Widow, a little ſtricken in Years, with a good Jointure, is like an old Manſion-houſe in a good Purchaſe, never valu'd; but take one, take t'other: And perhaps, when you are in poſſeſſion, you'd neglect it, let it drop to the ground, for want of neceſſary repairs, or expences upon't.

Free No, Widow, one wou'd be ſure to keep all tight, when one is to forfeit one's Leaſe by dilapidation.

Wid. Fie, fie, I neglect my Buſineſs, with this fooliſh diſcourſe of love. *Jerry*, Child let me ſee the Liſt of the Jury: I'm ſure my Couſin *Olivia* has ſome Relations amongſt 'em. But where is ſhe?

Free. Nay, Widow, hu hear me one word only.

Wid. Nay, Sir, no more, pray; I will no more hearken again to your fooliſh Love motions, than to offers of Arbitration. [*Ex.* Wid. *and* Jerr.

Free. Well, I'll follow thee yet; for he that has a pretenſion at Court, or to a Widow, muſt never give over for a little ill uſuage.

Old Therefore I'll get her by Aſſiduity, Patience and Long ſufferings, which you will not undergo; for you idle young Fellows leave off Love, when it comes to be Buſineſs; and Induſtry gets more Women than Love.

Free. Ay, Induſtry, the Fool's and old Man's merit; but I'll be induſtrious too, and make a buſineſs on't, and get her by Law, Wrangling, and Conteſts, and not by Sufferings: And, becauſe you are no dangerous Rival, I'll give thee counſel, Major.

If you Litigious Widow e'r wou'd gain,
Sigh not to her, but by the Law complain:
To her, as to a Baud, Defendant Sue
With Statutes, and make Juſtice Pimp for you. [Exeunt.

Finis Actus Secundi.

ACT. III. SCENE. I.

Weſtminſter-Hall.

Enter Manly *and* Freeman, *two Sailors behind.*

Man. I Hate this place, worſe than a Man that has inherited a *Chancery* Suit: I wiſh I were well out on't again.

Free. Why, you need not be afraid of this place: for a Man without Money, needs no more fear a croud of Lawyers, than a croud of Pick-pockets.

Man. This, the Reverend of the Law wou'd have thought the Palace or Reſidence of Juſtice; but, if it be, ſhe lives here with the State of a *Turkiſh* Emperour, rarely ſeen; and beſieg'd rather than defended, by her numerous black Guard here.

Free. Methinks, 'tis like one of their own Halls, in *Chriſtmas* time, whither, from all parts, Fools bring their Money, to try, by the Dice, (not the worſt Judges) whether it ſhall be their own, or no: but, after a tedious fretting and wrangling, they drop away all their Money, on both ſides; and finding neither the better, at laſt, go emptily and lovingly away together, to the Tavern, joining their Curſes againſt the young Lawyers Box, that ſweeps all, like the old ones.

Man. Spoken, like a Revelling *Chriſtmas* Lawyer.

Free. Yes, I was one, I confeſs; but was fain to leave the Law, out of Conſcience, and fall to making falſe Muſters: rather chuſe to Cheat the King, than his Subjects; Plunder, rather than take Fees.

Man. Well, a Plague, and a Purſe Famine light on the Law; and that Female limb of it, who! drag'd me hither to day: but pr'ythee go ſee if, in that croud of dagled Gowns there, thou canſt find her.

Pointing to a croud of Lawyers, at the end of the Stage.

[*Exit* Freeman.

Manet Manly.

How hard it is to be an Hypocrite!
At leaſt to me, who am but newly ſo.
I thought it once a kind of Knavery,
Nay, Cowardice, to hide ones faults; but now
The common frailty, Love, becomes my ſhame.
He muſt not know I love th' ungrateful ſtill,
Leſt he contemn me, more than ſhe: for I,

It

It ſeems can undergo a Womans ſcorn,
But not a Mans——

Enter to him Fidelia.

Fid. Sir, good Sir, generous Captain.

Man. Pr'ythee, kind impertinence, leave me. Why ſhou'dſt thou follow me, flatter my Generoſity now, ſince thou know'ſt I have no Money left? if I had it, I'd give it thee, to buy my quiet.

Fid. I never follow'd yet, Sir, Reward or Fame, but you alone; nor do I now beg any thing, but leave to ſhare your miſeries: You ſhou'd not be a Niggard of 'em, ſince, methinks, you have enough to ſpare. Let me follow you now, becauſe you hate me, as you have often ſaid.

Man. I ever hated a Coward's company, I muſt confeſs.

Fid. Let me follow you, till I am none then; for you, I'm ſure, will through ſuch Worlds of dangers, that I ſhall be inu'rd to 'em; nay I ſhall be afraid of your anger more than danger, and ſo turn valiant out of fear. Dear Captain, do not caſt me off, till you have try'd me once more: do not, do not go to Sea again without me,

Man. Thou to Sea! to Court, thou Fool; remember the advice I gave thee: thou art a handſom Spaniel, and canſt faun naturally? go, buſk about, and run thy ſelf into the next great Man's Lobby: firſt faun upon the Slaves without, and then run into the Ladies Bed-chamber; thou may'ſt be admitted, at laſt, to tumble her Bed: go ſeek, I ſay, and loſe me; for I am not able to keep thee: I have not Bread for my ſelf.

Fid. Therefore I will not go, becauſe then I may help and ſerve you.

Man. Thou!

Fid. I warrant you, Sir; for at worſt, I cou'd beg or ſteal for you.

Man. Nay, more bragging! doſt thou not know there's venturing your life, in ſtealing? Go, pr'ythee, away: thou art as hard to ſhake off, as that flattering effeminating miſchief, Love.

Fid. Love, did you name? Why, you are not ſo miſerable as to be yet in Love, ſure!

Man. No no, pr'ythee away, be gone, or——
I had almoſt diſcover'd my Love and Shame; well if I had? that thing cou'd not think the worſe of me: ——or if I did? ——no——yes, he ſhall know it——he ſhall——but then I muſt never leave him, for they are ſuch ſecrets, that make Paraſites and Pimps Lords of their Maſters; for any ſlavery or tyranny is eaſier than Love's. [*Aſide.*
Come hither ſince thou art ſo forward to ſerve me: haſt thou but reſolution enough to endure the torture of a ſecret? for ſuch, to ſome, is inſupportable.

Fid. I wou'd keep it as ſafe, as if your dear precious life depended on't.

Man. Dam your dearneſs. It concerns more than my life, my honour.

Fid. Doubt it not, Sir.

Man. And do not diſcover it, by too much fear of diſcovering it; but have a great care you let not *Freeman* find it out.

Fid. I warrant you, Sir. I am already all joy, with the hopes of your commands; and ſhall be all wings, in the execution of 'em: ſpeak quickly,

Man. You ſaid you'd beg for me.

Fid. I did, Sir.

Man. Then you ſhall beg for me.

Fid. With all my heart, Sir.

Man. That is, Pimp for me.

Fid. How, Sir?

Man. D'ye ſtart! thinkſt thou, thou cou'dſt do me any other ſervice? Come, no diſſembling honour: I know you can do it handſomly, thou wert made for't: You have loſt your time with me at Sea, you muſt recover it.

Fid. Do not, Sir, beget your ſelf more Reaſons for your Averſion to me, and make my obedience to you a fault: I am the unfitteſt in the World, to do you ſuch a ſervice.

Man. Your cunning arguing againſt it, ſhews but how fit you are for it. No more diſſembling: here, (I ſay) you muſt go uſe it for me, to *Olivia*.

Fid. To her, Sir.

Man. Go flatter, lie, kneel, promiſe, any thing to get her for me: I cannot live unleſs I have her. Didſt thou not ſay thou wou'dſt do any thing, to ſave my life? And ſhe ſaid you had a perſuading face.

Fid. But, did not you ſay, Sir, your honour was dearer to you, than your life? And wou'd you have me contribute to the loſs of that, and carry love from you, to the moſt infamous, moſt falſe, and———

Man. And moſt beautiful!——— [*Sighs aſide.*

Fid. Moſt ungrateful woman, that ever liv'd; for ſure ſhe muſt be ſo, that cou'd deſert you ſo ſoon, uſe you ſo baſely, and ſo lately too: do not, do not forget it, Sir, and think———

Man. No I will not forget it, but think of revenge: I will lie with her out of revenge. Go, be gone, and prevail for me, or never ſee me more.

Fid. You ſcorn'd her laſt night.

Man. I know not what I did laſt night; I diſſembled laſt night.

Fid. Heavens!

Man. Be gone I ſay, and bring me love or compliance back, or hopes at leaſt, or I'll never ſee thy face again: by——

Fid. O do not ſwear, Sir, firſt hear me.

Man. I am impatient, away, you'll find me here till twelve. [*Turns away.*

Fid. Sir———

Man. Not one word, no inſinuating Argument more, or ſoothing perſuaſion; you'll have need of all your Rhetorick with her: go, ſtrive to alter her, not me; be gone. [*Ex* Man. *at the end of the Stage.*

Manet Fidelia.

Fid. Shou'd I diſcover to him now my Sex,
And lay before him his ſtrange cruelty,
'Twou'd but incenſe it more.——No, 'tis not time.
For his Love, muſt I then betray my own?
Were ever Love or Chance, till now, ſevere?
Or ſhifting Woman pos'd with ſuch a task?
Forc'd to beg that which kills her, if obtain'd;
And give away her Lover not to loſe him. [*Ex.* Fidel.

Enter.

Enter Widow Blackacre *in the middle of half a dozen Lawyers, whiſper'd to by a Fellow in black,* Jerry Blackacre *following the croud.*

Wid. Offer me a Reference, you ſaucy Companion you! d'ye know who you ſpeak to? Art thou a Solicitor in *Chancery*, and offer a Reference? A pretty Fellow! Mr. Serjeant *Ploddon*, here's a Fellow has the impudence to offer me a Reference.

Serj. Plod. Who's that has the impudence to offer a Reference within theſe Walls?

Wid. Nay, for a Splitter of Cauſes to do't!

Serj. Plod. No, Madam, to a Lady learned in the Law, as you are, the offer of a Reference were to impoſe upon you.

Wid. No, no, never fear me for a Reference, Mr. Serjeant. But, come have you not forgot your Brief? Are you ſure you ſhan't make the miſtake of——Hark you—— [*Whiſpers*] Go then, go to your Court of *Common-Pleas*, and ſay one thing over and over again: You do it ſo naturally, you'll never be ſuſpected for protracting time.

Serj. Plod. Come I know the courſe of the Court, and your buſineſs. [*Ex.* Serj. Plod.

Wid. Let's ſee, *Jerry*, where are my Minutes? Come, Mr. *Quaint*, pray go talk a great deal for me in *Chancery*; let your words be eaſie, and your Senſe hard, my Cauſe requires it: Branch it bravely, and deck my Cauſe with flowers, that the Snake may lye hidden. Go, go, and be ſure you remember the Decree of my Lord Chancellor *Triceſimo quart'* of the Queen.

Quaint. I will, as I ſee cauſe, extenuate, or amplifie Matter of Fact; baffle Truth, with Impudence; anſwer Exceptions, with Queſtions, tho' never ſo impertinent; for Reaſons, give 'em Words; for Law and Equity, Tropes and Figures: And ſo relax and enervate the ſinews of their Argument, with the oyl of my Eloquence. But when my Lungs can reaſon no longer, and not being able to ſay any thing more for our Cauſe, ſay every thing of our Adverſary; whoſe Reputation, though never ſo clear and evident in the eye of the World, yet with ſharp Invectives——

Wid. (Alias *Belin'ſgate.*)

Quaint. With poinant and ſower Invectives, I ſay, I will deface, wipe out, and obliterate his fair Reputation, even as a Record with the juice of Lemons; and tell ſuch a Story, (for, the truth on't is, all that we can do for our Client, in *Chancery*, is telling a Story) a fine Story, a long Story, ſuch a Story.

Wid. Go, ſave thy breath for the Cauſe; talk at the Bar, Mr. *Quaint*. You are ſo copiouſly fluent, you can weary any ones ears, ſooner than your own tongue. Go, weary our Adverſaries Counſel, and the Court: Go, thou art a fine-ſpoken perſon: Adad, I ſhall make thy Wife jealous of me: if you can but court the Court into a Decree for us. Go, get you gone, remember —— [*Whiſpers*] [*Exit* Quaint.

Come, Mr. *Blunder*, pray baul ſoundly for me, at the *Kings-Bench*; bluſter, ſputter, queſtion, cavil; but be ſure your Argument be intricate enough, to

confound the Court: And then you do my buſineſs. Talk what you will, but be ſure your tongue never ſtand ſtill; for your own noiſe will ſecure your Senſe from Cenſure: 'tis like coughing or heming when one has got the Belly-ake, which ſtifles the unmannerly noiſe. Go, dear Rogue, and ſucceed; and I'll invite thee, ere it be long, to more ſouz'd Veniſon.

Blund. I'll warrant you, after your Verdict, your Judgment ſhall not be Arreſted upon if's and and's.

Wid. Come, Mr. *Petulant*, let me give you ſome new inſtructions, for our Cauſe in the *Exchequer*: Are the Barons ſate?

Pet. Yes, no; may be they are, may be they are not: what know I? what care I?

Wid. Hey day! I wiſh you wou'd but ſnap up the Counſel on t'other ſide anon, at the Bar, as much; and have a little more patience with me, that I might inſtruct you a little better.

Pet. You inſtruct me! What is my Brief for, Miſtreſs?

Wid. Ay, but you ſeldom read your Brief, but at the Bar, if you do it then.

Pet. Perhaps I do, perhaps I don't, and perhaps 'tis time enough: pray hold your ſelf contented, Miſtreſs.

Wid. Nay, if you go there too, I will not be contented, Sir, tho' you, I ſee, will loſe my Cauſe for want of ſpeaking, I wo'not: You ſhall hear me, and ſhall be inſtructed. Let's ſee your Brief.

Pet. Send your Solicitor to me, inſtructed by a Woman! I'd have you to know, I do not wear a Bar-gown——

Wid. by a Woman! And I'd have you to know, I am no common Woman; but a Woman converſant in the Laws of the Land, as well as your ſelf, tho' I have no Bar-gown.

Pet. Go to, go to, Miſtreſs, you are impertinent, and there's your Brief for you: inſtruct me! [*Flings her Breviate at her.*

Wid. Impertinent to me, you ſaucy *Jack* you! You return my Breviate, but where's my Fee? You'll be ſure to keep that, and ſcan that ſo well, that if there chance to be but a braſs Half-crown in't, one's ſure to here on't again: wou'd you wou'd but look on your Breviate half ſo narrowly. But pray give me my Fee too, as well as my Brief.

Pet. Miſtreſs, that's without Precedent. When did a Counſel ever return his Fee, pray? And you are impertinent, and ignorant, to demand it.

Wid. Impertinent again, and ignorant to me! Gadsbodikins, you puny Upſtart in the Law, to uſe me ſo, you Green-Bag Carrier, you Murderer of unfortunate Cauſes, the Clerks Ink is ſcarce off of your fingers, you that newly come from Lamblacking the Judges ſhooes, and are not fit to wipe mine; you call me impertinent and ignorant! I wou'd give thee a Cuff on the ear, ſitting the Courts, if I were ignorant. Marry gep, if it had not been for me, thou hadſt been yet but a hearing Counſel at the Bar. [*Ex* Petulant.

Enter Mr. Buttongown, *croſſing the Stage in haſte.*

Mr. *Buttongown*, Mr. *Buttongown*, whither ſo faſt? what, won't you ſtay till we are heard?

Butt. I cannot, Mrs. *Blackacre*, I muſt be at the Council, my Lord's Cauſe ſtays there for me.

Wid.

Wid. And mine ſuffers here.

Butt. I cannot help it.

Wid. I'm undone.

Butt. What's that to me?

Wid. Conſider the five pound Fee, if not my Cauſe: that was ſomething to you.

Butt. Away, away, pray be not ſo troubleſom, Miſtreſs, I muſt be gone.

Wid. Nay, but conſider a little, I am your old Client, my Lord but a new one; or, let him be what he will, he will hardly be a better Client to you, than my ſelf, I hope you believe I ſhall be in Law as long as I live? therefore am no deſpicable Client. Well, but go to your Lord, I know you expect he ſhou'd make you a Judge one day; but I hope his promiſe to you will prove a true Lord's promiſe: But, that he might be ſure to fail you, I wiſh you had his Bond for't.

Butt. But what will you be thus impertinent, Miſtreſs?

Wid. Nay, I beſeech you, Sir, ſtay; if it be but to tell me my Lord's Caſe: come in ſhort.

Butt. Nay, then—— [*Ex* Buttongown.

Wid. Well, *Jerry*, obſerve Child, and lay it up for hereafter: Theſe are thoſe Lawyers, who, by being in all Cauſes, are in none; therefore if you wou'd have 'em for you, let your Adverſary fee 'em; for he may chance to depend upon 'em: and ſo, in being againſt thee, they'll be for thee.

Jerr. Ay, mother, they put me in mind of the unconſcionable Wooers of Widows, who undertake briskly their Matrimonial buſineſs for their Money; but when they have got it once, let who's will drudge for them; therefore have a care of 'em, forſooth: there's Advice for your Advice.

Wid. Well ſaid, Boy, come Mr. *Splitcauſe*, pray go ſee when my Cauſe in *Chancery* comes on; and go ſpeak with Mr. *Quillit* in the *Kings-Bench*, and Mr. *Quirk* in the *Common Pleas*, and ſee how our matters go there.

Enter Major Oldſox.

Old. Lady, a good and propitious morning to you; and may all your Cauſes go as well, as if I my ſelf were Judge of 'em.

Wid. Sir, excuſe me, I am buſie, and cannot anſwer Complements in *Weſtminſter-hall*. Go, Mr. *Splitcauſe*, and come to me again, to that Book-ſellers, there I'll ſtay for you, that you may be ſure to find me.

Old. No, Sir, come to the other Book-ſellers, I'll attend your Ladyſhip thither. [*Ex.* Splitcauſe.

Wid. Why to the other?

Old. Becauſe he is my Book-ſeller Lady.

Wid. What, to ſell you Lozenges for your Catarrh? or Medicines for your Corns? what elſe can a Major deal with a Book-ſeller for?

Old. Lady, he Prints for me.

Wid. Why, are you an Author?

Old. Of ſome few Eſſayes; deign you, Lady, to peruſe 'em. (She is a Woman of parts, and I muſt win her by ſhewing mine.) [*Aſide.*

The Bookſeller's Boy.

Boy. Will you ſee *Culpepper*, Miſtreſs? *Ariſtotle's Problems?* The *Compleat Midwife?*

Wid.

Wid. No let's ſee *Dalton*, *Hughs*, *Shepherd*, *Wingate*.

Boy. We have no Law-books.

Wid. No? You are a pretty Book-ſeller then.

Old. Come, have you e're a one of my Eſſays left?

Boy. Yes, Sir, we have enough, and ſhall always have 'em.

Old. How ſo?

Boy. Why, they are good, ſteady, laſting Ware.

Old. Nay, I hope they will live, let's ſee. Be plea'sd Madam, to peruſe the poor endeavours of my Pen; tho' I ſay it, that——

[*Gives her a Book.*

Jerr. Pray let me ſee *St.* George *for Chriſtendom*, or, *The Seven Champions of* England.

Wid. No, no, give him, *The Young Clark's Guide*. What, we ſhall have you read your ſelf into a humor of Rambling, and Fighting, and ſtudying Military Diſcipline, and wearing red Breeches!

Old. Nay, if you talk of Military Diſcipline, ſhew him my Treatiſe of *The Art of Military*.

Wid. Hold, I wou'd as willingly he ſhou'd read a *Play*.

Jerr. O pray, forſooth Mother, let me have a *Play*.

Wid. No, Sirrah, there are young Students of the Law enough ſpoil'd already, by *Playes*; they wou'd make you in love with your Landreſs, or what's worſe, ſome Queen of the Stage, that was a Landreſs; and ſo turn Keeper before you are of age. [*Several croſſing the Stage.* But ſtay *Jerry*, is it not that Mr. *what-d'y'call him*, that goes there: he that offer'd to ſell me a Suit in *Chancery* for five hundred pound, for a hundred down, and only Paying the Clerks Fees?

Jerr. Ay, forſooth, 'tis he.

Wid. Then ſtay here, and have a care of the Bags, whil'ſt I follow him; have a care of the Bags, I ſay.

Jerr. And do you have a care, forſooth, of the Statute againſt *Champertee*, I ſay. [*Ex.* Widow.

Enter Freeman *to them.*

Free. So, ther's a limb of my Widow, which was wont to be inſeparable from her: ſhe can't be far. [*Aſide.*
How now my pretty Son-in-law that ſhall be, where's my Widow?

Jerr. My Mother, but not your Widow, will be forth-coming preſently.

Free. Your Servant, Major; what, are you buying Furniture for a little ſleeping Cloſet, which you miſcall a Study? For you do only, by your Books, as by your Wenches, bind 'em up neatly, and make 'em fine, for other people to uſe 'em: And your Bookſeller is properly your Upholſter; for he furniſhes your Room, rather than your Head.

Old. Well, well, good Sea-Lieutenant, ſtudy you your Compaſs, that's more than your head can deal with. (I will go find out the Widow, to keep her out of his ſight, or he'll board her, whil'ſt I am treating a peace.) [*Aſide.*
[*Ex.* Oldfox.

Manent

Manent Freeman, Jerry.

Jerr. Nay pry'thee, Friend, now, let me have but the *Seven Champions*, you ſhall truſt me no longer than till my Mother's Mr. *Splitcauſe* comes; for I hope he'll lend me wherewithal to pay for't.

Free. Lend thee! here, I'll pay him. Do you want Money, Squire? I'm ſorry a Man of your Eſtate ſhou'd want Money.

Jerr. Nay, my Mother will ne'r let me be at Age: And till then, ſhe ſays——

Free. At Age! Why, you are at Age already to have ſpent an Eſtate, Man; there are younger than you, have kept their Women this three years, have had half a dozen Claps, and loſt as many thouſand pounds at Play.

Jerr. Ay, they are happy Sparks! nay I know ſome of my School-Fellows, who when we were at School, were two years younger than me; but now, I know not how, are grown Men before me, and go where they will, and look to themſelves: but my Curmudgeonly Mother wo'nt allow me wherewithal to be a Man of my ſelf with.

Free. Why there 'tis, I knew your Mother was in fault: Ask but your School-Fellows what they did to be Men of themſelves.

Jerr. Why, I know they went to Law with their Mothers; for they ſay, there's no good to be done upon a Widow-Mother, till one goes to Law with her: but mine is as plaguy a Lawyer as any's of our Inn. Then wou'd ſhe marry too, and cut down my Trees: Now I ſhou'd hate, Man, to have my Father's Wife kiſs'd, and ſlap'd, and t'other thing too, (you know what I mean) by an other Man; and our Trees are the pureſt, tall, even, ſhady twigs, by my fa——

Free. Come, Squire, let your Mother and your Trees fall as ſhe pleaſes, rather than wear this Gown, and carry green Bags all thy life, and be pointed at for a Tony: But you ſhall be able to deal with her yet the Common way; thou ſhalt make falſe Love to ſome Lawyer's Daughter, whoſe Father, upon the hopes of thy marrying her, ſhall lend thee Money and Law, to preſerve thy Eſtate and Trees: and thy Mother is ſo ugly, no Body will have her, if ſhe cannot cut down thy Trees.

Jerr. Nay, if I had but any body to ſtand by me, I am as ſtomachful as another.

Free. That will I, I'll not ſee any hopeful young Gentleman abus'd.

Boy. By any but your ſelf. [*Aſide.*

Jerr. The truth on't is, mine's as arrant a Widow-Mother, to her poor Child, as any's in *England*: ſhe wo'nt ſo much as let one have ſix pence in one's Pocket to ſee a Motion, or the Dancing of the Ropes, or——

Free. Come, you ſhan't want Money, there's Gold for you.

Jerr. O Lord, Sir, two Guineys! d'ye lend me this? is there no trick in't? Well, Sir, I'll give you my Bond for ſecurity.

Free. No, no, thou haſt given me thy face for ſecurity: And any Body wou'd ſwear thou doſt not look like a Cheat. You ſhall have what you will of me; and if your Mother will not be kinder to you, come to me, who will.

Jerr. By my fa——he's a curious fine Gentleman!—— [*Aſide.* But, will you ſtand by one?

Free.

Free. If you can be reſolute.

Jerr. Can be reſolv'd! Gad, if ſhe gives me but a croſs word, I'll leave her to night, and come to you, But, now I have got Money, I'll go to *Jack of all Trades*, at t'other end of the *Hall*, and buy the neateſt pureſt things——

Free. And I'll follow the great Boy, and my blow at his Mother: ſteal away the Calf, and the Cow will follow you.

[*Exit* Jerry *follow'd by* Freeman.

Enter, on the other ſide, Manly, *Widow* Blackacre, *and* Oldfox.

Man. Dam your Cauſe; cant you loſe it without me? which you are like enough to do, if it be as you ſay, an honeſt one: I will ſuffer no longer for't.

Wid. Nay, Captain, I tell you, you are my prime Witneſs, and the Cauſe is juſt now comming on, Mr. *Splitcauſe* tells me. Lord, methinks you ſhou'd take a pleaſure in walking here, as half you ſee now do; for they have no buſineſs here, I aſure you.

Man. Yes, but I'll aſſure you then, their buſineſs is to perſecute me; but d'ye think I'll ſtay any longer, to have a Rogue, becauſe he knows my name, pluck me aſide, and whiſper a News-book-ſecret to me with a ſtinking breath? A ſecond come piping angry from the Court, and ſputter in my face his tedious complaints againſt it? A third Law-Coxcomb, becauſe he ſaw me once at a Reader's dinner, come and put me a long Law-Caſe, to make a diſcovery of his indefatigable dulneſs, and my weari'd patience? A fourth, a moſt barbarous Civil Rogue, who will keep a Man half an hour in the croud with a bow'd body, and a hat off, acting the reform'd Sign of the *Salutation* Tavern, to hear his bountiful profeſſions of ſervice and friendſhip; whil'ſt he cares not if I were damn'd, and I am wiſhing him hang'd out of my way; I'd as ſoon run the Gantlet, as walk t'other turn.

Enter to them Jerry Blackacre *without his Bags; but laden with Trinkets, which he endeavours to hide from his Mother: and follow'd at a diſtance by* Freeman.

Wid. O, are you come, Sir? But where have you been, you Aſs? And how came you thus laden?

Jerr. Look here, forſooth Mother, now here's a Duck, here's a Boar-cat, and here's an Owl. [*Making a noiſe with Cat-calls, and other ſuch like Inſtruments.*

Wid. Yes, there is an Owl, Sir.

Old. He's an ungracious Bird, indeed.

Wid. But go, thou Trangame, and carry back thoſe Trangames, which thou haſt ſtol'n or purloin'd; for no body wou'd truſt a Minor in *Weſtminſter-Hall* ſure.

Jerr. Hold your ſelf contented, forſooth, I have theſe Commodities by a fair Bargain and Sale; and there ſtands my Witneſs, and Creditor.

Wid. How's that! What, Sir, d'ye think to get the Mother, by giving the Child a Rattle? But where are my Bags, my Writings, you raſcal?

Jerr.

Jerr. O Law! Where are they indeed? [*Aside.*

Wid. How, Sirrah? ſpeak, come——

Man. You can tell her, *Freeman*, I ſuppoſe. [*Apart to him.*

Free. 'Tis true, I made one of your Salt-water Sharks ſteal 'em, whil'ſt he was eagerly chooſing his Commodities, as he calls 'em, in order to my deſign upon his Mother. [*Apart to him.*

Wid. Wo'nt you ſpeak? Where were you, I ſay, you Son of a——an unfortunate Woman? O, Major, I'm undone; they are all that concern my Eſtate, my Jointure, my Husband's Deed of Gift, my Evidences for all my Suits now depending! What will become of them?

Free. I'm glad to hear this. [*Aside.*

They'll be ſafe, I warrant you, Madam.

Wid. O where? where? Come, you Villain, along with me, and ſhew me where. [*Exeunt* Widow, Jerry, Oldfox.

Manent Manly, Freeman.

Man. Thou haſt taken the right way to get a Widow, by making her great Boy rebel; for, when nothing will make a Widow marry, ſhe'll do't to croſs her Children. But canſt thou in earneſt marry this Harpy, this Volume of ſhrivel'd blur'd Parchments and Law, this Attornies Deſk?

Free. Ay, ay, I'll marry, and live honeſtly: that is, give my Creditors, not her, due benevolence, pay my debts.

Man. Thy Creditors, you ſee, are not ſo barbarous, as to put thee in Priſon, and wilt thou commit thy ſelf to a noiſom Dungeon for thy life? which is the only ſatisfaction thou canſt give thy Creditors by this match.

Free. Why, is not ſhe rich?

Man. Ay, but he that marries a Widow, for her Money, will find himſelf as much miſtaken, as the Widow, that marries a young Fellow for due Benevolence, as you call it.

Free. Why, d'ye think I ſhan't deſerve Wages? I'll drudge faithfully.

Man. I tell thee again, he that is the Slave in the Mine, has the leaſt propriety in the Ore: You may dig, and dig; but if thou wou'dſt have her Money, rather get to be her Truſtee, than her Husband; for a true Widow will make over her Eſtate to any Body, and cheat her ſelf, rather than be cheated by her Children, or a ſecond Husband.

Enter to them Jerry, *running in a fright.*

Jerr. O Law! I'm undone, I'm undone, my Mother will kill me: You ſaid you'd ſtand by one.

Free. So I will, my brave Squire, I warrant thee.

Jerr. Ay, but I dare not ſtay till ſhe comes; for ſhe's as furious, now ſhe has loſt her Writings, as a Bitch when ſhe has loſt her Puppies.

Man. The Compariſon's handſom!

Jerr. O, ſhe's here!

Enter Widow Blackacre, *and* Oldfox.

Free. [*To the Sailor*] Take him, *Jack*, and make haſte with him, to your Maſter's Lodging; and be ſure you keep him up, till I come.

[*Exit* Jerry *and* Sailor.

Wid. O my dear Writings! where's this heathen Rogue, my Minor?

Free. Gone to drown or hang himſelf.

Wid. No, I know him too well, he'll ne'r be *Felo de ſe* that way; but he may go and chooſe a Guardian of his own head, and ſo be *Felo de ſes beins.* for he has not yet choſen one.

Free. Say you ſo? And he ſhan't want one. [*Aſide.*

Wid. But, now I think on't, 'tis you, Sir, have put this Cheat upon me; for there is a ſaying, *Take hold of a Maid by her Smock, and a Widow by her writings, and they cannot get from you:* But I'll play faſt and looſe with you yet, if there be Law; and my Minor and writings are not forth-coming, I'll bring my Action of Detinue or Trover. But firſt I'll try to find out this Guardianleſs, graceleſs Villain. Will you jog, Major?

Man. If you have loſt your Evidence, I hope your Cauſes cannot go on, and I may be gone?

Wid. O no, ſtay but a making water while, (as one may ſay) and I'll be with you again. [*Ex.* Widow, *and* Oldfox.

Manent Manly, Freeman.

Free. Well, ſure I am the firſt Man that ever began a love Intrigue, in *Weſtminſter-Hall.*

Man. No, ſure; for the Love to a Widow generally begins here: And as the Widow's Cauſe goes againſt the Heir or Executors, the Jointure Rivals commence their Suit to the Widow.

Free. Well, but how, pray, have you paſt your time here, ſince I was forc'd to leave you alone? You have had a great deal of patience.

Man. Is this a place to be alone, or have patience in? But I have had patience indeed; for I have drawn upon me, ſince I came, but three Quarrels, and two Law-Suits.

Free. Nay, faith, you are too curſt to be let looſe in the world; you ſhou'd be ty'd up again, in your Sea-kennel, call'd a Ship. But how cou'd you quarrel here.

Man. How cou'd I refrain? A Lawyer talk'd peremptorily and ſaucily to me, and as good as gave me the Lye.

Free. They do it ſo often to one another at the Bar, that they make no Bones on't elſewhere.

Man. However, I gave him a Cuff on the Ear; whereupon he jogs two Men, whoſe backs were turn'd to us, (for they were reading at a Book-ſellers) to witneſs I ſtruck him ſitting the Courts; which office they ſo readily promis'd, that I call'd 'em Raſcals, and Knights of the poſt: one of 'em preſently calls two other abſent Witneſſes, who were coming towards us at a diſtance; whil'ſt the other, with a whiſper, deſires to know my name, that he might have ſatisfaction by way of Challenge, as t'other by way of Writ; but if it were not rather to direct his Brother's Writ, than his own Challenge: there you ſee is one of my Quarrels, and two of my Law-Suits.

Free. So:——and the other two?

Man. For adviſing a Poet to leave off Writing and turn Lawyer, becauſe he is dull, and impudent, and ſayes or writes nothing now, but by Precedent.

Free. And the third Quarrel?

Man. For giving more ſincere advice, to a handſom, well-dreſt, young Fellow

Fellow (who ask'd it too) not to marry a Wench, that he lov'd, and I had lay'n with.

Free. Nay, if you will be giving your ſincere advice to Lovers, and Poets, you will not fail of Quarrels.

Man. Or, if I ſtay in this place; for I ſee more Quarrels crouding upon me: let's be gone and avoid 'em.

Enter Novel, *at a diſtance, comming towards them.*

A Plague on him, that Sneer is ominous to us; he is coming upon us, and we ſhall not be rid of him.

Nov. Dear Bully, don't look ſo grum upon me, you told me juſt now, you had forgiven me a little harmleſs Raillery upon woodden legs laſt night.

Man. Yes, yes, pray be gone, I am talking of buſineſs.

Nov. Can't I hear it? I love thee, and will be faithful, and always——

Man. Impertinent! 'tis buſineſs that concerns *Freeman* only.

Nov. Well, I love *Freeman* too, and wou'd not divulge his ſecret: pr'ythee ſpeak, pr'ythee I muſt——

Man. Pr'ythee let me be rid of thee, I muſt be rid of thee.

Nov. Faith, thou canſt hardly, I love thee ſo. Come I muſt know the buſineſs.

Man. So, I have it now. [*Aſide.*

Why if you needs will know it, he has a quarrel, and his Adverſary bids him bring two Friends with him: now I am one; and we are thinking who we ſhall have for a third.

Several croſſing the Stage.

Nov. A pox there goes a Fellow owes me an Hundred pound, and goes out of Town to morrow: I'll ſpeak with him, and come to you preſently.

[*Exit* Novel.

Man. No but you wo'nt.

Free. You are dextrouſly rid of him.

Enter Oldfox.

Man. To what purpoſe, ſince here comes another, as impertinent? I know, by his grin, he is bound hither.

Old. Your Servant, worthy, noble Captain: Well I have left the Widow, becauſe ſhe carri'd me from your company; for faith Captain, I muſt needs tell thee, thou art the only Officer in *England*, who was not an *Edg-hil* Officer, that I care for.

Man. I'm ſorry for't.

Old. Why woud'ſt thou have me love them?

Man. Any body, rather than me.

Old. What you are modeſt I ſee! therefore too, I love thee.

Man. No, I am not modeſt, but love to brag my ſelf, and can't patiently hear you fight over the laſt Civil War; therefore go look out the Fellow I ſaw juſt now here, that walks with his Stockings and his Sword out at heels, and let him tell you the Hiſtory of that ſcar on his cheek, to give you occaſion to ſhew yours, got in the field at *Bloomsbury*, not that of *Edg-hil*: go

to him, poor Fellow, he is faſting, and has not yet the happineſs this morning to ſtink of Brandy and Tobacco; go, give him ſome to hear you, I am buſie.

Old. Well, ygad, I love thee now, Boy, for thy ſurlineſs: thou art no tame Captain, I ſee, that will ſuffer———

Man. An old Fox.

Old. All that ſhan't make me angry: I conſider thou art peeviſh, and fretting at ſome ill ſucceſs at Law. Pr'ythee tell me what ill Luck you have met with here.

Man. You.

Old. Do I look like the Picture of ill Luck? Gadſnouns I love thee more and more; and ſhall I tell thee what made me love thee firſt?

Man. Do: that I may be rid of that damn'd quality, and thee.

Old. 'Twas thy wearing that broad Sword there.

Man. Here, *Freeman*, let's change: I'll never wear it more.

Old. How! You won't ſure. Pr'ythee dont look like one of our Holy-day Captains now adayes, with a Bodkin by your ſide, your Martinet Rogues.

Man. (O, then there's hopes.) [*Aſide.*

What, d'ye find fault with Martinet? let me tell you, Sir, 'tis the beſt exerciſe in the World; the moſt ready, moſt eaſie, moſt graceful exerciſe that ever was us'd, and the moſt——

Old. Nay, nay, Sir, no more, Sir, your Servant if you praiſe Martinet once, I have done with you, Sir. Martinet! Martinet!

[*Exit* Oldfox.

Free. Nay, you have made him leave you as willingly, as ever he did an Enemy; for he was truly for the King and Parliament: for the Parliament, in their Liſt; and for the King, in cheating 'em of their Pay, and never hurting the King's Party in the Field.

Enter a Lawyer towards them.

Man. A Pox! this way; here's a Lawyer I know threatning us with another greeting.

Law. Sir, Sir, your very Servant; I was afraid you had forgotten me.

Man. I was not afraid you had forgotten me.

Law. No, Sir, we Lawyers have pretty good memories.

Man. You ought to have, by your Wits.

Law. O, you are a merry Gentleman, Sir; I remember you were merry, when I was laſt in your company.

Man. I was never merry in thy company, Mr. Lawyer, ſure.

Law. Why, I'm ſure you jok'd upon me, and ſhamm'd me all night long.

Man. Shamm'd! pr'ythee what barbarous Law-term is that?

Law. Shamming! Why don't you know that? 'tis all our way of Wit, Sir.

Man. I am glad I do not know it then: Shamming! What does he mean by't, *Freeman*?

Free. Shamming, is telling you an inſipid, dull Lye, with a dull Face, which the ſlie Wag the Author only laughs at himſelf; and making himſelf believe 'tis a good Jeſt, puts the Sham only upon himſelf.

Man. So, your Lawyers Jeſt, I find, like his Practice, has more Knavery, than

than Wit in't. I ſhou'd make the worſt Shammer in *England*; I muſt alwayes deal ingeniouſly, as I will with you, Mr. Lawyer, and adviſe you to be ſeen rather with Attornies and Solicitors, than ſuch Fellows as I am; they will credit your practice more.

Law. No, Sir, your company's an honour to me.

Man. No, faith, go thy wayes there goes an Attorney, leave me for him; let it be never ſaid, a Lawyers Civility did him hurt.

Law. No, worthy honour'd Sir, I'll not leave you for any Attorney ſure.

Man. Unleſs he had a Fee in his hand.

Law. Have you any buſineſs here, Sir? try me: I'd ſerve you ſooner than any Attorney breathing.

Man. Buſineſs! ——So, I have thought of a ſure way. [*Aſide.* Yes, faith, I have a little buſineſs.

Law. Have you ſo, Sir? in what Court, Sir? what is't Sir? tell me but how I may ſerve you, and I'll do't, Sir; and take it for as great an honour——

Man. Faith, 'tis for a poor Orphan of a Sea-Officer of mine, that has no Money; but if it cou'd be follow'd *in Forma Pauperis*; and when the Legacy's recovered——

Law. Forma Pauperis, Sir!

Man. Ay. Sir!

Several croſſing the Stage.

Law. Mr. *Bumblecaſe*, Mr. *Bumblecaſe*, a word with you; Sir, I beg your pardon at preſent, I have a little buſineſs——

Man. Which is not *in Forma Pauperis.* [Exit *Lawyer.*

Free. So, you have now found a way to be rid of people without quarrelling.

Enter Alderman.

Man. But here's a City Rogue will ſtick as hard upon us, as if I ow'd him Money.

Ald. Captain, noble Sir, I am yours heartily d'ye ſee: Why ſhou'd you avoid your old Friends?

Man. And why ſhou'd you follow me? I owe you nothing:

Ald. Out of my hearty reſpects to you; for there is not a Man in *England*——

Man. Thou wou'dſt ſave from hanging, with the expence of a ſhilling only.

Ald. Nay, nay, but Captain, you are like enough to tell me——

Man. Truth, which you won't care to hear; therefore you had better go talk with ſome body elſe.

Ald. No, I know no body can inform me better, of ſome young Wit, or Spendthrift, that has a good dip'd Seat and Eſtate in *Middleſex*, *Hartfordſhire*, *Eſſex*, or *Kent*, any of theſe wou'd ſerve my turn: now, if you knew of ſuch an one, and wou'd but help——

Man. You to finiſh his ruine.

Ald. I'faith, you ſhould have a ſhip——

Man.

Man. Of your Noſe; you thirty in the hundred, Raſcal; wou'd you make me your Squire Setter, your Baud for Mannors? [*Takes him by the Noſe.*

Ald. Oh!

Free. Hold, or here will be your third Law-Suit.

Ald. Gads precious, you hectoring Perſon you, are you wild? I meant you no hurt, Sir; I begin to think (as things go) Land-ſecurity beſt, and have, for a convenient Mortgage, ſome ten, fifteen or twenty thouſand pound by me.

Man. Then go lay it out upon an Hoſpital, and take a Mortgage of Heaven, according to your City cuſtom; for you think by laying out a little Money, to hook in that too hereafter; do, I ſay, and keep the poor you've made by taking forfeitures, that Heaven may not take yours.

Ald. No, to keep the Cripples you make this War; this War ſpoils our Trade.

Man. Dam your Trade, 'tis the better for't.

Ald. What, will you ſpeak againſt our Trade?

Man. And dare you ſpeak againſt the War, our Trade?

Ald. Well, he may be a Convoy of Ships I am concern'd in. [*Aſide.* Come, Captain, I will have a fair correſpondency with you, ſay what you will.

Man. Then pr'ythee be gone.

Ald. No, faith; pr'ythee, Captain, let's go drink a Diſh of Lac'd Coffee, and talk of the times: Come, I'll treat you; nay, you ſhall go, for I have no buſineſs here.

Man. But I have.

Ald. To pick up a Man to give thee a Dinner: Come, I'll do thy buſineſs for thee.

Man. Faith, now I think on't, ſo you may, as well as any Man; for 'tis to pick up a Man, to be bound with me, to one who expects City ſecurity, for——

Ald. Nay, then your ſervant, Captain; buſineſs muſt be done.

Man. Ay, if it can; but hark you, Alderman, without you ——

Ald. Buſineſs, Sir, I ſay, muſt be done; and there's an Officer of the Treaſury I have an Affair with—— [*Several croſſing the Stage.*

[*Exit Alderman.*

Man. You ſee now what the mighty friendſhip of the World is; what all Ceremony, Embraces, and plentiful Profeſſions come to: You are no more to believe a profeſſing Friend, than a threatning Enemy; and as no Man hurts you, that tells you he'll do you a miſchief, no Man, you ſee, is your Servant who ſayes he is ſo. Why, the Devil, then ſhou'd a Man be troubled with the flattery of Knaves, if he be not a Fool or Cully; or with the fondneſs of Fools, if he be not a Knave or Cheat?

Free. Only for his pleaſure; for there is ſome in laughing at Fools, and diſappointing Knaves.

Man. That's a pleaſure; I think, wou'd coſt you too dear, as well as marrying your Widow to diſappoint her; but, for my part, I have no pleaſure by 'em, but in deſpiſing 'em, whereſoe'r I meet 'em; and then the pleaſure of hoping

hoping ſo to be rid of 'em. But now my comfort is, I am not worth a ſhilling in the World, which all the world ſhall know; and then I'm ſure I ſhall have none of 'em come near me.

Free. A very pretty comfort, which I think you pay too dear for: But is the twenty pound gone ſince the morning?

Man. To my Boats-Crew: wou'd you have the poor, honeſt brave Fellows want?

Free. Rather than you, or I.

Man. Why, art thou without Money? thou who art a friend to every body?

Free. I ventur'd my laſt ſtake upon the Squire, to nick him of his Mother; and cannot help you to a dinner, unleſs you will go dine with my Lord—

Man. No, no, the Ordinary is too dear for me, where flattery muſt pay for my dinner; I am no Herald, or Poet.

Free. We'll go then to the Biſhops——

Man. There you muſt flatter the old Philoſophy: I cannot renounce my Reaſon for a Dinner.

Free. Why, then let's go to your Aldermans.

Man. Hang him, Rogue! that were not to dine, for he makes you drunk with *Lees* of Sack before dinner, to take away your Stomach: and there you muſt call Uſury and Extortion, God's Bleſſing, or the Honeſt turning of the Penny; hear him brag of the Leather Breeches in which he trotted firſt to Town; and make a greater noiſe with his Money in his Parlour, than his Caſheers do in his Counting-Houſe, without hopes of borrowing a ſhilling.

Free. Ay, a pox on't, tis like dinning with the great Gameſters; and, when they fall to their common Deſſert, ſee the heaps of Gold drawn on all hands, without going to twelve. Let us go to my Lady *Goodly's*.

Man. There, to flatter her looks, you muſt miſtake her Grand-children for her own; praiſe her Cook that ſhe may rail at him; and feed her Dogs, not your ſelf.

Free. What d'ye think of eating with your Lawyer then?

Man. Eat with him! Dam him; to hear him employ his barbarous Eloquence in a Reading upon the two and thirty good Bits in a ſhoulder of Veal; and be forc'd your ſelf to praiſe the cold Bribe-pye, that ſtinks; and drink Law *French* Wine, as rough and harſh as his Law *French*. A pox on him, I'd rather dine in the Temple Rounds or Walks, with the Knights without Noſes, or the Knights of the Poſt; who are honeſter Fellows, and better Company. But let us home, and try our Fortune; for I'll ſtay no longer here for your damn'd Widow.

Free. Well, let us go come then; for I muſt go for my damn'd Widow, and look after my new damn'd Charge; three or four hundred Years ago, a Man might have din'd in this Hall.

Man. *But now, the Lawyer only here is fed:*
And, Bully-like, by Quarrels gets his Bread.

Finis Actus Tertii. ACT.

ACT. IV. SCENE. I.

Manly's *Lodgings.*

Enter Manly, *and* Fidelia.

Man. WEll there's ſucceſs in thy face; haſt thou prevail'd? ſay.

Fid. As I cou'd wiſh, Sir.

Man. So, I told thee what thou wert fit for, and thou wou'dſt not believe me. Come, thank me for bringing thee acquainted with thy Genius. Well, thou haſt mollifi'd her heart for me?

Fid. No, Sir, not ſo; but what's better.

Man. How? what's better!

Fid. I ſhall harden your heart againſt her.

Man. Have a care, Sir, my heart is too much in earneſt to be fooled with, and my deſire at height, and needs no delays to incite it; what, you are too good a Pimp already, and know how to endear pleaſure, by withholding it? but leave off your Pages, Baudy-houſe tricks, Sir, and tell me, will ſhe be kind?

Fid. Kinder than you cou'd wiſh, Sir.

Man. So then: well, pr'ythee, what ſaid ſhe?

Fid. She ſaid——

Man. What? thou'rt ſo tedious; ſpeak comfort to me: what?

Fid. That, of all things, you are her averſion.

Man. How?

Fid. That ſhe wou'd ſooner take a Bedfellow out of an Hoſpital, and Diſeaſes into her Arms, than you.

Man. What?

Fid. That ſhe wou'd rather truſt her Honour with a diſſolute, debauch'd Hector; nay worſe, with a finical baffled Coward, all over loathſom with affectation of the fine Gentleman;

Man. What's all this you ſay?

Fid. Nay, that my offers of your Love to her, were more offenſive, than when Parents wooe their Virgin Daughters, to the enjoyment of Riches only; and that you were, in all circumſtances, as nauſeous to her as a Huſband on compulſion.

Man. Hold; I underſtand you not.

Fid. So, 'twill work I ſee. [*Aſide.*

Man. Did not you tell me——

Fid. She call'd you ten thouſand Ruffians.

Man. Hold, I ſay.

Fid. Brutes——

Man. Hold.

Fid.

Fid. Sea Monſters——

Man. Dam your intelligence: hear me a little now.

Fid. Nay, ſurly Coward ſhe call'd you too.

Man. Won't you hold yet? hold, or——

Fid. Nay, Sir, pardon me; I cou'd not but tell you ſhe had the baſeneſs, the injuſtice, to call you Coward, Sir, Coward, Coward, Sir.

Man. Not yet?——

Fid. I've done. Coward, Sir.

Man. Did not you ſay ſhe was kinder than I cou'd wiſh her?

Fid. Yes, Sir.

Man. How then?——O——I underſtand you now. At firſt ſhe appear'd in rage, and diſdain, the trueſt ſign of a coming Woman; but at laſt, you prevail'd it ſeems: did you not?

Fid. Yes, Sir.

Man. So then, let's know that only; come pr'ythee, without delays: I'll kiſs thee for that news beforehand.

Fid. So; the kiſs I'm ſure is welcome to me, whatſoe're the News will be to you. [*Aſide.*

Man. Come, ſpeak, my dear Voluntier.

Fid. How welcome were that kind word too, if it were not for another Womans ſake! [*Aſide.*

Man. What, won't you ſpeak? You prevail'd for me, at laſt, you ſay?

Fid. No, Sir.

Man. No more of your fooling, Sir; it will not agree with my impatience, or temper.

Fid. Then not to fool you, Sir, I ſpake to her for you, but prevail'd for my ſelf; ſhe wou'd not hear me when I ſpake in your behalf; but bid me ſay what I wou'd in my own, tho' ſhe gave me no occaſion, ſhe was ſo coming: and ſo was kinder, Sir, than you cou'd wiſh; which I was only afraid to let you know, without ſome warning.

Man. How's this? Young man, you are of a lying age; but I muſt hear you out, and if——

Fid. I wou'd not abuſe you, and cannot wrong her by any report of her, ſhe is ſo wicked.

Man. How, wicked! had ſhe the impudence, at the ſecond ſight of you only——

Fid. Impudence, Sir! Oh, ſhe has impudence enough to put a Court out of countenance, and debauch a Stews.

Man. Why, what ſaid ſhe?

Fid. Her tongue, I confeſs was ſilent; but her ſpeaking eyes gloted ſuch things, more immodeſt, and laſcivious, than Raviſhers can act, or Women under a confinement think.

Man. I know there are whoſe Eyes reflect more Obſcenity, than the Glaſſes in Alcoves; but there are others who uſe a little Art with their looks, to make 'em ſeem more beautiful, not more loving: which vain young Fellows, like you, are apt to interpret in their own favour, and to the Lady's wrong.

Fid. Seldom, Sir; pray have you a care of gloting Eyes; for he that loves to gaze upon 'em, will find at laſt, a thouſand Fools and Cuckolds in 'em, inſtead of *Cupids*.

Man. Very well, Sir: but, what, you had only Eye-kindneſs from *Olivia*?

Fid. I tell you again, Sir, No Woman ſticks there; Eye-promiſes of Love they only keep; nay, they are Contracts which make you ſure of 'em. In ſhort, Sir, ſhe ſeeing me, with ſhame and amazement dumb, unactive, and reſiſtleſs, threw her twiſting arms about my neck, and ſmother'd me with a thouſand taſteleſs Kiſſes: believe me, Sir, they were ſo to me.

Man. Why did you not avoid 'em then?

Fid. I fenced with her eager arms, as you did with the grapples of the Enemy's Fire-ſhip; and nothing but cutting 'em off, cou'd have freed me.

Man. Damn'd, damn'd Woman, that cou'd be ſo falſe and infamous! And damn'd, damn'd heart of mine, that cannot yet be falſe, tho' ſo infamous! What eaſie, tame, ſuffering, trampled things does that little god of talking Cowards make of us! but——

Fid. So! it works, I find, as I expected. [*Aſide.*

Man. But ſhe was falſe to me before, ſhe told me ſo her ſelf, and yet I cou'd not quite believe it; but ſhe was, ſo that her ſecond falſeneſs is a favour to me, not an injury, in revenging me upon the Man that wrong'd me firſt of her Love. Her Love!—a Whores, a Witches Love!——But, what, did ſhe not kiſs well, Sir? I'm ſure I thought her Lips—but I muſt not think of 'em more—but yet they are ſuch I cou'd ſtill kiſs—grow to—and then tear off with my teeth, grind 'em into mammoks, and ſpit 'em into her Cuckolds face.

Fid. Poor Man, how uneaſie he is! I have hardly the heart to give him ſo much pain, tho' withal I give him a cure; and to my ſelf new life. [*Aſide.*

Man. But, what, her Kiſſes ſure cou'd not but warm you into deſire at laſt, or a compliance with hers at leaſt?

Fid. Nay more, I confeſs——

Man. What more? ſpeak.

Fid. All you cou'd fear had paſs'd between us, if I coud have been made to wrong you, Sir, in that nature.

Man. Cou'd have been made! you lye, you did.

Fid. Indeed, Sir, 'twas impoſſible for me; beſides, we were interrupted by a viſit; but, I confeſs, ſhe wou'd not let me ſtir, till I promis'd to return to her again within this hour, as ſoon as it ſhou'd be dark; by which time ſhe wou'd diſpoſe of her viſit, and her Servants, and her ſelf, for my reception: which I was fain to promiſe to get from her.

Man. Ha!

Fid. But if ever I go near her again, may you, Sir, think me as falſe to you, as ſhe is; hate, and renounce me, as you ought to do her, and I hope will do now.

Man.

Man. Well, but now I think on't, you ſhall keep your word with your Lady. What, a young Fellow, and fail the firſt, nay, ſo tempting an aſſignation!

Fid. How, Sir?

Man. I ſay you ſhall go to her when 'tis dark, and ſhall not diſappoint her.

Fid. I, Sir! I ſhou'd diſappoint her more by going; for——

Man. How ſo?

Fid. Her impudence, and injuſtice to you, will make me diſappoint her Love; loath her.

Man. Come you have my leave; and if you diſguſt her, I'll go with you, and act Love, whil'ſt you ſhall talk it only.

Fid. You, Sir! nay, then I'll never go near her. You act love Sir! You muſt but act it indeed, after all I have ſaid to you. Think of your Honour, Sir, Love——

Man. Well, call it Revenge, and that is honourable: I'll be reveng'd on her; and thou ſhalt be my ſecond.

Fid. Not in a baſe action, Sir, when you are your own Enemy: O, go not near her, Sir, for Heave'ns ſake, for your own, think not of it.

Man. How concern'd you are! I thought I ſhou'd catch you. What, you are my Rival at laſt, and are in love with her your ſelf; and have ſpoken ill of her out of your love to her, not me; and therefore wou'd not have me go to her!

Fid. Heav'n witneſs for me, 'tis becauſe I love you only, I wou'd not have you go to her.

Man. Come, come, the more I think on't, the more I'm ſatisfied you do love her: thoſe Kiſſes, young Man, I knew were irreſiſtable; 'tis certain.

Fid. There is nothing certain in the World, Sir, but my Truth, and your Courage.

Man. Your Servant, Sir. Beſides falſe, and ungrateful, as ſhe has been to me; and tho' I may believe her hatred to me, great as you report it; yet I cannot think you are ſo ſoon, and at that rate, belov'd by her, tho' you may endeavour it.

Fid. Nay, if that be all, and you doubt it ſtill, Sir, I will conduct you to her; and, unſeen, your Ears ſhall judge of her falſeneſs, and my truth to you: if that will ſatisfie you.

Man. Yes, there is ſome ſatisfaction in being quite out of doubt: becauſe 'tis that alone withholds us from the pleaſure of Revenge.

Fid. Revenge! What Revenge can you have, Sir? Diſdain is beſt reveng'd by ſcorn; and faithleſs Love, by the loving another, and making her happy with the others loſings: which, if I muſt adviſe——

Enter Freeman.

Man. Not a word more.

Frre. What, are you talking of Love yet, Captain? I thought you had done with't.

Man. Why, what did you hear me ſay?

Free. Something imperfectly of Love, I think.

Man. I was only won'dring why Fools, Raſcals, and deſertleſs Wretches, ſhou'd ſtill have the better of Men of Merit with all Women; as much as with their own common Miſtreſs, Fortune!

Free. Becauſe moſt Women, like Fortune are blind, ſeem to do all things in jeſt, and take pleaſure in extravagant actions; their Love deſerves neither thanks, or blame, for they cannot help it: 'tis all ſympathy; therefore the noiſie, the finical, the talkative, the cowardly and effeminate, have the better of the brave, the reaſonable, and Man of Honour; for they have no more reaſon in their love, or kindneſs, than Fortune her ſelf.

Man. Yes, they have their Reaſon. Firſt, Honour in a Man they fear too much to love; and Senſe in a Lover, upbraids their want of it; and they hate any thing that diſturbs their admiration of themſelves; but they are of that vain number, who had rather ſhew their falſe generoſity, in giving away profuſely to worthleſs Flatterers, than in paying juſt Debts: And in ſhort, all Women, like Fortune, (as you ſay) and Rewards, are loſt, by too much meriting.

Fid. All Women, Sir! ſure there are ſome, who have no other quarrel to a Lovers merit, but that it begets their deſpair of him.

Man. Thou art young enough to be credulous; but we——

Enter 1 Sailor.

1. *Sailor.* Here are now below, the ſcolding, daggled Gentlewoman, and that Major Old——old——Fop, I think you call him.

Free. Oldfox: pr'ythee bid 'em come up, with your leave, Captain, for now I can talk with her upon the ſquare; if I ſhall not diſturb you.

Man. No; for I'll be gone, Come, Volunteer.

Free. Nay, pray ſtay; the Scene between us will not be ſo tedious to you as you think: beſides, you ſhall ſee, how I have rigg'd my Squire out, with the remains of my Shipwrack'd Wardrobe; he is under your *Sea-valet de Chambre* hands, and by this time dreſt, and will be worth your ſeeing. Stay, and I'll fetch my Fool.

Man. No; you know I cannot eaſily laugh: beſides, my Volunteer and I have buſineſs abroad. [*Ex.* Manly, Fidelia *on one ſide*, Freeman *on t'other.*

Enter Major Oldfox, and *Widow* Blackacre.

Wid. What, no body here! Did not the fellow ſay he was within?

Old. Yes, Lady; and he may be perhaps a little buſie at preſent; but, if you think the time long till he comes, [*Unfolding Papers*] I'll read you here ſome of the fruits of my leiſure, the overflowings of my fancy and Pen. (To value me right, ſhe muſt know my parts.) [*Aſide.*

Come——

Wid.

Wid. No, no; I have reading work enough of my own, in my Bag, I thank you.

Old. I, Law, Madam; but here's a Poem, in blank Verſe, which I think a handſom Declaration of one's paſſion.

Wid. O! if you talk of Declarations, I'll ſhew you one of the prettieſt pen'd things, which I mended too my ſelf, you muſt know.

Old Nay, Lady, if you have uſed your ſelf ſo much to the reading of harſh Law, that you hate ſmooth Poetry; here is a Character for you, of——

Wid. A Character! Nay, then I'll ſhew you my Bill in *Chancery* here, that gives you ſuch a Character of my Adverſary, makes him as black——

Old. Pſhaw; away, away, Lady. But if you think the Character too long, here is an Epigram, not above twenty lines, upon a cruel Lady; who Decreed her Servant ſhou'd hang himſelf, to demonſtrate his Paſſion.

Wid. Decreed! if you talk of Decreeing, I have ſuch a Decree here, drawn by the fineſt Clerk——

Old. O Lady, Lady, all interruption, and no ſenſe between us, as if we were Lawyers at the Bar! But I had forgot, *Apollo* and *Littleton* never lodge in a head together. If you hate Verſes, I'll give you a caſt of my Politics in Proſe: 'tis a Letter to a Friend in the Countrey; which is now the way of all ſuch ſober, ſolid Perſons as my ſelf, when they have a mind to publiſh their diſguſt to the Times; tho' perhaps, between you and I, they have no Friend in the Country. And ſure a Politic, ſerious perſon may as well have a feign'd Friend in the Country to write to, as well as an idle Poet a feign'd Miſtreſs to write to. And ſo here's my Letter to a Friend, or no Friend, in the Country, concerning the late Conjuncture of Affairs, in relation to *Coffee-Houſes*: or, *The Coffee-man's Caſe.*

Wid. Nay, if your Letter have a Caſe in't, 'tis ſomething; but firſt I'll read you a Letter of mine, to a Friend in the Country, call'd a Letter of *Attorney.*

Enter to them Freeman *and* Jerry Blackacre, *in an old gaudy Suit, and red Breeches of* Freeman's.

Old. What, interruption ſtill? O the plague of interruption! worſe to an Author, than the plague of Criticks!

Wid. What's this I ſee, *Jerry Blackacre*, my Minor, in red Breeches! What, haſt thou left the modeſt ſeemly Garb of Gown and Cap, for this? And have I loſt all my good *Inns of Chancery* breeding upon thee then? And thou wilt go a breeding thy ſelf, from our Inn of *Chancery* and *Weſtminſter-Hall*, at Coffee-Houſes, and Ordinaries, Play-houſes, Tennis-courts, and Baudy-houſes?

Jerr. Ay, ay, what then? perhaps I will; but what's that to you? here's my Guardian and Tutor now, forſooth, that I am out of your Huckſters hands.

Wid

Wid. How? thou haſt not choſen him for thy Guardian yet?

Jerr. No, but he has choſen me for his Charge, and that's all one; and I'll do any thing he'll have me, and go all the world over with him; to Ordinaries, and Baudy-houſes, or any where elſe.

Wid. To Ordinaries and Baudy-houſes! have a care, Minor, thou wilt infeeble there thy Eſtate and Body: do not go to Ordinaries and Baudy-houſes, good *Jerry*.

Jerr. Why, how come you to know any ill by Baudy-houſes? You never had any hurt by 'em, had you, forſooth? Pray hold your ſelf contented; if I do go where Money and Wenches are to be had, you may thank your ſelf; for you us'd me ſo unnaturally, you wou'd never let me have a Penny to go abroad with: nor ſo much as come near the Garret where your Maidens lay; nay, you wou'd not ſo much as let me play at Hotcockles with 'em, nor have any Recreation with 'em, tho' one ſhou'd have kiſs'd you behind, you were ſo unnatural a Mother, ſo you were.

Free. Ay, a very unnatural Mother, faith, Squire.

Wid. But, *Jerry*, conſider thou art yet but a Minor; however, if thou wilt go home with me again, and be a good Child, thou ſhalt ſee——

Free. Madam, I muſt have a better care of my Heir under age, than ſo; I wou'd ſooner truſt him alone with a ſtale Waiting-woman and a Parſon, than with his Widow Mother and her Lover or Lawyer.

Wid. Why, thou Villain, part Mother and Minor! Rob me of my Child and my Writings! but thou ſhalt find there's Law; and as in the Caſe of Raviſhment, of Guard——*Weſtminſter* the Second.

Old. Young Gentleman, Squire, pray be rul'd by your Mother, and your Friends.

Jerr. Yes, I'll be rul'd by my Friends, therefore not my Mother, ſo I won't: I'll chooſe him for my Guardian till I am of age; nay, may be for as long as I live.

Wid. Wilt thou ſo, thou Wretch? And when thou'rt of age, thou wilt Sign, Seal, and Deliver too, wilt thou?

Jerr. Yes marry will I, if you go there too.

Wid. O do not ſqueeze wax, Son; rather go to Ordinaries, and Baudy-houſes, than ſqueeze wax: if thou doſt that, farewell the goodly Mannor of *Blackacre*, with all its VVoods, Underwoods, and appurtenances whatever. Oh, oh! [*Weeps.*

Free. Come, Madam, in ſhort, you ſee I am reſolv'd to have a ſhare in the Eſtate, yours or your Son's; if I cannot get you, I'll keep him who is leſs coy you find; but, if you wou'd have your Son again, you muſt take me too. Peace, or War? Love, or Law? You ſee my Hoſtage is in my hand: I'm in poſſeſſion.

Wid. Nay, if one of us muſt be ruin'd, e'n let it be him. By my Body, a good one! Did you ever know yet a Widow marry or not marry for the ſake of her Child? I'd have you to know, Sir, I ſhall be hard enough for you both yet, without marrying you; if *Jerry* won't be rul'd by me, what ſay you, Booby, will you be rul'd? ſpeak.

Jerr. Let one alone, can't you?

Wid.

Wid. Wilt thou chooſe him for Guardian, whom I refuſe for Husband?

Jerr. Ay, to chooſe, I thank you.

Wid. And are all my hopes fruſtrated? ſhall I never hear thee put Caſes again to *John* the Butler, or our Vicar? Never ſee thee amble the Circuit with the Judges; and hear thee, in our Town-Hall, louder than the Cryer?

Jerr. No; for I have taken my leave of Lawyering, and Pettifogging.

Wid. Pettifogging! thou prophane Villain, haſt thou ſo? Pettifogging!—then you ſhall take your leave of me, and your Eſtate too; thou ſhalt be an Alien to me and it for ever. Pettifogging!

Jerr. O, but if you go there too, Mother, we have the Deeds, and Settlements, I thank you: Wou'd you cheat me of my Eſtate, ifac?

Wid. No, no, I will not cheat your little Brother *Bob*; for thou wert not born in Wedlock.

Free. How's that?

Jerr. How? What Querk has ſhe got in her head now?

Wid. I ſay thou canſt not, ſhalt not inherit the *Blackacres* Eſtate.

Free. Why? why, forſooth? What d'ye mean, if you go there too?

Wid. Thou art but my baſe Child; and, according to the Law, canſt not inherit it: nay, thou art not ſo much as Baſtard eigne.

Jerr. What, what? Am I then the Son of a Whore, Mother?

Wid. The Law ſays———

Free. Madam, we know what the Law ſays; but have a care what you ſay: do not let your Paſſion, to ruin your Son, ruin your Reputation.

Wid. Hang Reputation, Sir, am not I a Widow? Have no Husband, nor intend to have any? Nor wou'd you I ſuppoſe, now have me for a Wife. So, I think now I'm reveng'd on my Son and you, without marrying, as I told you.

Free. But, conſider, Madam.

Jerr. What, have you no ſhame left in you, Mother?

Wid. Wonder not at it, Major, 'tis often the poor preſt Widows caſe, to give up her Honour to ſave her Jointure; and ſeems to be a light Woman, rather than marry: as ſome young men, they ſay, pretend to have the filthy Diſeaſe, and loſe their credit with moſt Women, to avoid the importunities of ſome. [*Aſide to* Oldfox.

Free. But one word with you, Madam.

Wid. No, no, Sir. Come, Major, let us make haſt, now to the Prerogative Court.

Old. But, Lady, if what you ſay be true, will you ſtigmatize your Reputation on Record? And, if it be not true, how will you prove it?

Wid. Pſhaw! I can prove any thing; and for my Reputation, know, Major, a wiſe Woman will no more value her Reputation, in diſinheriting a Rebellious Son, of a good Eſtate; than ſhe wou'd in getting him, to inherit an Eſtate. [*Ex.* Wid. *and* Oldfox.

Free. Madam—we muſt not let her go ſo, Squire.

Jerr. Nay, the Devil can't ſtop her tho' if ſhe has a mind to't. But come, Bully Guardian, we'll go and adviſe with three Attornies, two Proctors, two Solicitors,

Solicitors, and a ſhrewd man of *White-Friers*, neither Attorney, Proctor, or Solicitor, but as pure a Pimp to the Law as any of 'em; and ſure all they will be hard enough for her; for I fear, Bully Guardian, you are too good a Joker, to have any Law in your head.

Free. Thou'rt in the right on't, Squire; I underſtand no Law: eſpecially that againſt Baſtards, ſince I'm ſure the cuſtom is againſt that Law; and more people get Eſtates by being ſo than loſe 'em. [*Exeunt.*

The Scene changes to Olivia's *Lodging.*

Enter Lord Plauſible, *and Boy with a Candle.*

L. *Plauſ.* Little Gentleman, your moſt obedient, faithful, humble Servant: where, I beſeech you, is that Divine perſon your Noble Lady?

Boy. Gone out, my Lord; but commanded me to give you this Letter. [*Gives him a Letter.*

Enter to him Novel.

L. *Plauſ.* Which he muſt not obſerve. [*Aſide.*] Puts it up.

Nov. Hey, Boy, where is thy Lady?

Boy. Gone out, Sir; but I muſt beg a word with you. [*Gives him a Letter, and* Exit.

Nov. For me? So. [*Puts up the Letter.*

Servant, Servant, my Lord; you ſee the Lady knew of your coming, for ſhe is gone out.

L. *Plauſ.* Sir, I humbly beſeech you not to cenſure the Lady's good breeding: ſhe has reaſon to uſe more liberty with me, than with any other man.

Nov. How, Vicount, how?

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, I humbly beſeech you, be not in choler; where there is moſt love, there may be moſt freedom.

Nov. Nay, then 'tis time to come to an eclerciſment with you, and to tell you, you muſt think no more of this Lady's love.

L. *Plauſ.* Why, under correction, dear Sir?

Nov. There are Reaſons, Reaſons, Vicount.

L. *Plauſ.* What, I beſeech you, Noble Sir?

Nov. Pr'ythee, pr'ythee be not impertinent, my Lord; ſome of you Lords are ſuch conceited, well-aſſured, impertinent Rogues;

L. *Plauſ.* And you noble Wits, are ſo full of ſhamming, and drolling, one knows not where to have you ſeriouſly.

Nov. Well, you ſhall find me in Bed, with this Lady, one of theſe dayes.

L. *Plauſ.* Nay, I beſeech you, ſpare the Lady's Honour; for her's and mine will be all one ſhortly.

Nov. Pr'ythee, my Lord, be not an Aſs: doſt thou think to get her from me? I have had ſuch good encouragements——

L. *Plauſ.* I have not been thought unworthy of 'em.

Nov.

Nov. What, not like mine! Come to an eclerciſment, as I ſaid.

L. *Plauſ.* Why, ſeriouſly then, ſhe has told me, Vicounteſs ſounded prettily.

Nov. And me, that *Novel* was a name ſhe wou'd ſooner change her's for, than for any Title in *England*.

L. *Plauſ.* She has commended the ſoftneſs, and reſpectfulneſs of my behaviour.

Nov. She has prais'd the briskneſs of my Raillery of all things, Man.

L. *Plauſ.* The ſleepineſs of my Eyes ſhe lik'd.

Nov. Sleepineſs! dulneſs, dulneſs. But the fierceneſs of mine ſhe ador'd.

L. *Plauſ.* The brightneſs of my hair ſhe lik'd.

Nov. The brightneſs! No, the greaſineſs, I warrant. But the blackneſs, and luſtre of mine, ſhe admires.

L. *Plauſ.* The gentleneſs of my ſmile.

Nov. The ſubtilty of my leer.

L. *Plauſ.* The clearneſs of my complexion.

Nov. The redneſs of my lips.

L. *Plauſ.* The whiteneſs of my teeth.

Nov. My janty way of picking them.

L. *Plauſ.* The ſweetneſs of my breath.

Nov. Ha ha!——Nay then ſhe abus'd you, 'tis plain; for you know what *Manly* ſaid: the ſweetneſs of your Pulvillio ſhe might mean; but for your breath! ha, ha, ha. Your breath is ſuch, Man, that nothing but Tobacco can perfume: and your Complexion nothing cou'd mend, but the Small Pox.

L. *Plauſ.* Well, Sir, you may pleaſe to be merry; but, to put you out of all doubt, Sir, ſhe has receiv'd ſome Jewels from me, of value.

Nov. And preſents from me; beſides what I preſented her jantily, by way of 'Ombre, of three or four hundred pound value, which I'm ſure are the earneſt Pence for our Love bargain.

L. *Plauſ.* Nay then, Sir, with your favour, and to make an end of all your hopes, look you there, Sir, ſhe has writ to me——

[*Deliver to each other their Letters.*

Nov. How! how! well, well, and ſo ſhe has to me: look you there—

L. *Plauſ.* What's here!

Nov. How's this?

Reads out.

My dear Lord,

YOu'll excuſe me, for breaking my word with you, ſince 'twas to oblige, not offend you; for I am only gone abroad but to diſappoint Novel, *and meet you in the Drawing room; where I expect you, with as much impatience, as when I us'd to ſuffer* Novel's *Viſits, the moſt impertinent Fop, that ever affected the name of a Wit, therefore not capable, I hope, to give you jealouſie; for, for your ſake alone, you ſaw, I renounc'd an old Lover, and will do all the World. Burn the Letter, but lay up the kindneſs of it in your heart, with your*

OLIVIA.

Very fine! but pray let's ſee mine.

L. *Plauſ.* I underſtand it not; but ſure ſhe cannot think ſo of me.

Reads the other Letter.

Nov. *Umh! ha! ——meet——for your ſake——umh——quitted an old Lover——World——Burn——in your heart with your*

OLIVIA.

Juſt the ſame, the names only alter'd.

L. *Plauſ.* Surely there muſt be ſome miſtake; or ſome body has abus'd her, and us.

Nov. Yes, you are abus'd, no doubt on't, my Lord; but I'll to *White-Hall*, and ſee.

L. *Plauſ.* And I, where I ſhall find you are abus'd.

Nov. Where, if it be ſo, for our comfort, we cannot fail of meeting with Fellow-ſufferers enough; for as *Freeman* ſaid of another, ſhe ſtands in the Drawing-room, like the Glaſs, ready for all Comers to ſet their Gallantry by her: and, like the Glaſs too, lets no man go from her, unſatisfi'd with himſelf. [*Ex. Ambo.*

Enter Olivia *and Boy.*

Oliv. Both here, and juſt gone?

Boy. Yes, Madam.

Oliv. But are you ſure neither ſaw you deliver the other a Letter?

Boy. Yes, yes, Madam, I am very ſure.

Oliv. Go then to the *Old Exchange*, to *Weſtminſter*, *Holborn*, and all the other places I told you of; I ſhall not need you theſe two hours: Be gone, and take the Candle with you, and be ſure you leave word again below, I am gone out, to all that ask.

Boy. Yes, Madam. [*Exit.*

Oliv. And my new Lover will not ask I'm ſure; he has his Leſſon, and cannot miſs me here, tho' in the dark: which I have purpoſely deſign'd, as a remedy againſt my bluſhing Gallant's modeſty; for young Lovers, like game Cocks, are made bolder, by being kept without light.

Enter her Husband Verniſh, *as from a Journey.*

Ver. Where is ſhe? Darkneſs every where! [*Softly.*

Oliv. What, come before your time? my Soul! my Life! your haſte has augmented your kindneſs; and let me thank you for it thus, and thus—— [*Embracing and kiſſing him.*] And tho' (my Soul) the little time ſince you left me, has ſeem'd an Age to my impatience, ſure it is yet but ſeven——

Ver. How! who's that you expected after ſeven?

Oliv. Ha! my Husband return'd! and have I been throwing away ſo many

many kind Kiſſes on my Husband, and wrong'd my Lover already? [*Aſide.*

Ver. Speak, I ſay, who was't you expected after ſeven?

Oliv. What ſhall I ſay? —— oh—— [*Aſide.*

Why 'tis but ſeven days, is it, deareſt, ſince you went out of Town? and I expected you not ſo ſoon.

Ver. No, ſure 'tis but five days ſince I left you.

Oliv. Pardon my impatience, deareſt, I thought 'em ſeven at leaſt.

Ver. Nay then——

Oliv. But, my life, you ſhall never ſtay half ſo long from me again; you ſhan't, indeed, by this kiſs, you ſhan't.

Ver. No, no; but why alone in the dark?

Oliv. Blame not my melancholy in your abſence——

But, my ſoul, ſince you went, I have ſtrange News to tell you: *Manly* is return'd.

Ver. Manly return'd! Fortune forbid.

Oliv. Met with the *Dutch* in the Channel, fought, ſunk his Ship, and all he carri'd with him: he was here with me yeſterday.

Ver. And did you own our Marriage to him?

Oliv. I told him I was marry'd, to put an end to his love, and my trouble; but to whom, is yet a ſecret kept from him, and all the World: And I have us'd him ſo ſcurvily, his great ſpirit will ne'er return, to reaſon it farther with me; I have ſent him to Sea again, I warrant.

Ver. 'Twas bravely done. And ſure he will now hate the ſhore more than ever, after ſo great a diſappointment. Be you ſure only to keep a while our great ſecret, till he be gone: in the mean time I'll lead the eaſie honeſt Fool by the Noſe, as I us'd to do; and, whil'ſt he ſtays, rail with him at thee; and, when he's gone, laugh with thee at him. But have you his Cabinet of Jewels ſafe? Part not with a Seed Pearl to him, to keep him from ſtarving.

Oliv. Nor from hanging.

Ver. He cannot recover 'em; and, I think, will ſcorn to beg 'em again.

Oliv. But, my life, have you taken the thouſand Guineys he left in my name, out of the Goldſmiths hands?

Ver. Ay, ay, they are remov'd to another Goldſmiths.

Oliv. Ay but, my Soul, you had beſt have a care he find not where the money is: for his preſent wants (as I'm inform'd) are ſuch, as will make him inquiſitive enough.

Ver. You ſay true, and he knows the man too: but I'll remove it to morrow.

Oliv. To morrow? O do not ſtay till to morrow: go to night, immediately.

Ver. Now I think on't, you adviſe well, and I will go preſently.

Oliv. Preſently! inſtantly: I will not let you ſtay a jot.

Ver. I will then, tho' I return not home till twelve.

Oliv. Nay tho' not till morning, with all my heart: go, deareſt, I am impatient till you are gone—— [*Thruſts him out.*

So, I have at once now brought about thoſe two grateful buſineſſes, which

all prudent Women do together, ſecured Money and pleaſure; and now all interruptions of the laſt are remov'd. Go, Husband, and come up friend; juſt the Buckets in the Well; the abſence of one brings the other; but I hope, like them too, they will not meet in the way, juſtle, and claſh together.

Enter Fidelia, *and* Manly *treading ſoftly, and ſtaying behind at ſome diſtance.*

So, are you come? (but not the Husband-bucket, I hope, again.) Who's there? my deareſt? [*Softly.*

Fid. My Life——

Oliv. Right, right: where are thy lips? here, take the dumb, and beſt Welcomes, Kiſſes and Embraces; 'tis not a time for idle words. In a Duel of Love, as in others, Parlying ſhews baſely. Come, we are alone; and now the Word is only ſatisfaction, and defend not thy ſelf.

Man. How's this? Wuh, ſhe makes Love like a Devil in a Play; and in this darkneſs, which conceals her angel's face; if I were apt to be afraid, I ſhou'd think her a Devil. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. What, you traverſe ground, young Gentleman.

[Fidelia *avoiding her.*

Fid. I take breath only.

Man. Good Heav'ns! how was I deceiv'd! [*Aſide.*

Oliv. Nay, you are a Coward; what are you afraid of the fierceneſs of my Love?

Fid. Yes, Madam, leſt its violence might preſage its change; and I muſt needs be afraid you wou'd leave me quickly, who cou'd deſert ſo brave a Gentleman as *Manly*.

Oliv. O! name not his Name; for in a time of ſtoln joys, as this is, the filthy Name of Husband were not a more alaying ſound.

Man. There's ſome comfort yet. [*Aſide.*

Fid. but did you not love him?

Oliv. Never. How cou'd you think it?

Fid Becauſe he thought it, who is a Man of that ſenſe, nice diſcerning, and diffidency, that I ſhould think it hard to deceive him.

Oliv. No; he that diſtruſts moſt the World, truſts moſt to himſelf, and is but the more eaſily deceiv'd, becauſe he thinks he can't be deceiv'd: his cunning is like the Coward's Sword, by which he is oftner worſted, than defended.

Fid. Yet, ſure, you us'd no common Art, to deceive him.

Oliv. I knew he loved his own ſingular moroſeneſs ſo well, as to dote upon any Copy of it; wherefore I feign'd an hatred to the World too, that he might love me in earneſt: but, if it had been hard to deceive him, I'm ſure 'twere much harder to love him. A dogged, ill-manner'd——

Fid. D'ye hear her, Sir? pray hear her.

[*Aſide to* Manly.

Oliv.

Oliv. Surly, untractable, ſnarling Brute! he! a Maſty-dog were as fit a thing to make a Gallant of.

Man. Ay, a Goat, or Monkey were fitter for thee. [*Aſide.*

Fid. I muſt confeſs, for my part, (tho' my Rival) I cannot but ſay he has a manly handſomneſs in's face and meen.

Oliv. So has a Saracen in the ſign.

Fid. Is proper, and well made,

Oliv. As a Dray-man.

Fid. Has Wit.

Oliv. He rails at all Mankind.

Fid. And undoubted Courage,

Oliv. Like the Hangman's, can murder a Man when his hands are ty'd. He has Cruelty indeed; which is no more Courage, than his Railing is Wit.

Man. Thus Women, and Men like Women, are too hard for us, when they think we do not hear 'em; and Reputation, like other Miſtreſſes, is never true to a Man in his abſence. [*Aſide.*

Fid. He is ——

Oliv. Pr'ythee no more of him; I thought I had ſatisfi'd you enough before, that he cou'd never be a Rival for you to apprehend; and you need not be more aſſur'd of my averſion to him, but by the laſt teſtimony of my love to you: which I am ready to give you. Come, my Soul, this way—— [*Pulls* Fidelia.

Fid. But, Madam, what cou'd make you diſſemble love to him, when 'twas ſo hard a thing for you, and flatter his love to you?

Oliv. That which makes all the World flatter and diſſemble, 'twas his Money: I had a real paſſion for that. Yet I lov'd not that ſo well, as for it to take him; for, as ſoon as I had Money, I haſtned his departure: like a Wife, who, when ſhe has made the moſt of a dying Husband's breath, pulls away the Pillow.

Man. Dam'd Money! it's Maſter's potent Rival ſtill; and, like a ſaucy Pimp, corrupts it ſelf the Miſtreſs it procures for us.

Oliv. But I did not think with you, my life, to paſs my time in talking. Come hither, come; yet ſtay, till I have lock'd a door in the other Room, that may chance to let us in ſome interruption; which reciting Poets, or loſing Gamſters fear not more than I at this time do.

[*Exit* Olivia.

Fid. Well, I hope, you are now ſatisfied, Sir, and will be gone, to think of your Revenge?

Man. No, I am not ſatisfi'd, and muſt ſtay to be reveng'd.

Fid. How, Sir? You'll uſe no violence to her, I hope, and forfeit your own Life to take away her's? That were no Revenge.

Man. No, no, you need not fear: my revenge ſhall only be upon her Honour, not her Life.

Fid. How, Sir? her Honour? O Heavens! Conſider, Sir, ſhe has no Honour. D'ye call that Revenge? Can you think of ſuch a thing? But reflect, Sir, how ſhe hates and loaths you.

Man.

Man. Yes, ſo much ſhe hates me, that it wou'd be a revenge ſufficient, to make her acceſſary to my pleaſure, and then let her know it.

Fid. No, Sir, no; to be reveng'd on her now, were to diſappoint her. Pray, Sir, let us be gone. [*Pulls* Manly.

Man. Hold off. What, you are my Rival then; and therefore you ſhall ſtay, and keep the door for me, whil'ſt I go in for you: but, when I'm gone, if you dare to ſtir off from this very Board, or breath the leaſt murmuring Accent, I'll cut her Throat firſt, and if you love her, you will not venture her life; nay, then I'll cut your Throat too; and I know you love your own life at leaſt.

Fid. But, Sir, good Sir.

Man. Not a word more, leſt I begin my Revenge on her by killing you.

Fid. But are you ſure 'tis Revenge, that makes you do this? how can it be?

Man. Whiſt.

Fid. 'Tis a ſtrange Revenge indeed.

Man. If you make me ſtay, I ſhall keep my word, and begin with you. No more.

[*Exit* Manly, *at the ſame door* Olivia *went.*

Manet Fidelia.

Fid. O Heavens! is there not puniſhment enough
In loving well, if you will have't a Crime;
But you muſt add freſh Torments daily to't,
And puniſh us like peeviſh Rivals ſtill,
Becauſe we fain wou'd find a Heaven here?
But did there never any love like me,
That untry'd Tortures you muſt find me out?
Others, at worſt, you force to kill themſelves;
But I muſt be Self-murd'reſs of my love,
Yet will not grant me pow'r to end my Life,
My cruel Life; for when a Lover's hopes
Are dead, and gone, Life is unmerciful.

[*Sits down, and weeps.*

Enter Manly *to her.*

Man. I have thought better on't; I muſt not diſcover my ſelf now, I am without Witneſſes: for if I barely wou'd publiſh it, ſhe wou'd deny it with as much impudence, as ſhe wou'd act it again with this young Fellow here. Where are you?

Fid. Here——oh——now I ſuppoſe we may be gone.

Man. I will, but not you; you muſt ſtay, and act the ſecond part of a Lover: that is, talk kindneſs to her.

Fid. Not I, Sir.

Man.

Man. No diſputing, Sir, you muſt: 'tis neceſſary to my deſign, of coming again to morrow night.

Fid. What, can you come again then hither?

Man. Yes, and you muſt make the appointment, and an Apology for your leaving her ſo ſoon; for I have ſaid not a word to her, but have kept your counſel, as I expect you ſhou'd do mine: do this faithfully, and I promiſe you here, you ſhall run my Fortune ſtill, and we will never part as long as we live; but, if you do not do it, expect not to live.

Fid. 'Tis hard, Sir; but ſuch a conſideration will make it eaſier: you won't forget your promiſe, Sir?

Man. No, by Heavens. But I hear her coming. [*Exit.*

Enter Olivia *to* Fidelia.

Oliv. Where is my Life? run from me already! you do not love me, deareſt; nay, you are angry with me; for you wou'd not ſo much as ſpeak a kind word to me within. What was the reaſon?

Fid. I was tranſported too much.

Oliv. That's kind; but come, my Soul, what make you here? let us go in again; we may be ſurpriz'd in this Room, 'tis ſo near the ſtairs.

Fid. No, we ſhall hear the better here, if any body ſhou'd come up.

Oliv. Nay, I aſſure you, we ſhall be ſecure enough within: Come, come——

Fid. I am ſick, and troubled with a ſudden dizineſs; cannot ſtir yet.

Oliv. Come, I have Spirits within.

Fid. Oh!—don't you hear a noiſe, Madam?

Oliv. No, no, there is none: Come, come. [*Pulls her.*

Fid. Indeed there is; and I love you ſo much, I muſt have a care of your Honour, if you wo' not, and go; but to come to you to morrow night, if you pleaſe.

Oliv. With all my Soul; but you muſt not go yet: Come, pr'ythee.

Fid. Oh!——I am now ſicker, and am afraid of one of my Fits.

Oliv. What Fits?

Fid. Of the falling-ſickneſs: and I lie generally an hour in a trance; therefore pray conſider your honour, for the ſake of my love, and let me go, that I may return to you often.

Oliv. But will you be ſure then to come to morrow night?

Fid. Yes.

Oliv. Swear.

Fid. By our paſt kindneſs.

Oliv. Well, go your wayes then, if you will, you naughty Creature you. [*Exit.* Fidel.

Theſe young Lovers, with their fears and modeſty, make themſelves as bad as old ones to us; and I apprehend their baſhfulneſs, more than their tatling.

Fidelia *returns.*

Fid. O, Madam, we're undone! there was a Gentleman upon the ſtairs, coming

coming up, with a Candle; which made me retire. Look you here he comes!

Enter Vernish, *and his Man with a Light.*

Oliv. How! my Husband! Oh, undone indeed! This way. [*Ex.*

Ver. Ha! You shall not escape me so, Sir. [*Stops* Fidelia.

Fid. O Heav'ns! more fears, plagues, and torments yet in store! [*Aside.*

Ver. Come, Sir, I guess what your business was here; but this must be your business now. Draw. [*Draws.*

Fid. Sir——

Ver. No Expostulations: I shall not care to hear of't. Draw.

Fid. Good Sir.

Ver. How, you Rascal! not courage to draw, yet durst do me the greatest injury in the World? Thy Cawardice shall not save thy life. [*Offers to run at* Fidelia.

Fid. O hold, Sir, and send but your Servant down, and I'll satisfie you, Sir, I cou'd not injure you, as you imagine.

Ver. Leave the light, and be gone. [*Ex. Serv.* Now, quickly, Sir, what you've to say, or——

Fid. I am a Woman, Sir, a very unfortunate Woman.

Ver. How! A very handsom Woman I'm sure then: here are Witnesses of't too, I confess—— [*Pulls of her Peruke, and feels her Breasts.* Well, I'm glad to find the Tables turn'd, my Wife in more danger of Cuckolding, than I was. [*Aside.*

Fid. Now, Sir, I hope you are so much a Man of Honour, as to let me go, now I have satisfi'd you, Sir.

Ver. When you have satisfi'd me, Madam, I will.

Fid. I hope, Sir, you are too much a Gentleman, to urge those secrets from a Woman, which concern her Honour: You may guess my misfortune to be love, by my disguise; but a pair of Breeches cou'd not wrong you, Sir.

Ver. I may believe Love has chang'd your outside, which cou'd not wrong me; but why did my Wife run away?

Fid. I know not, Sir; perhaps because she wou'd not be forc'd to discover me to you, or to guide me from your suspicions, that you might not discover me your self; which ungentleman-like curiosity I hope you will cease to have, and let me go.

Ver. Well Madam, if I must not know who you are, 'twill suffice for me only to know certainly what you are: which you must not deny me. Come, there is a Bed within, the proper Racks for Lovers; and if you are a Woman; there you can keep no secrets, you'll tell me there all unask'd. Come. [*Pulls her.*

Fid. Oh? what d'ye mean? Help, oh——

Ver. I'll show you; but 'tis in vain to cry out: no one dares help you, for I am Lord here.

Fid.

Fid. Tyrant here; but if you are Maſter of this Houſe, which I have taken for a Sanctuary, do not violate it your ſelf.

Ver. No, I'll preſerve you here, and nothing ſhall hurt you, and will be as true to you, as your diſguiſe; but you muſt truſt me then. Come, come.

Fid. Oh! oh! rather than you ſhall drag me to a death ſo horrid, and ſo ſhameful, I'll die here a thouſand deaths, but you do not look like a Raviſher, Sir.

Ver. Nor you like one wou'd put me to't, but if you will——

Fid. Oh! oh! help, help——

Enter Servant.

Ver. You ſaucy Raſcal, how doſt you come in, when you heard a Woman ſqueak? that ſhou'd have been your Cue to ſhut the door.

Serv. I come, Sir, to let you know, the Alderman coming home immediately after you were at his Houſe, has ſent his Caſheer with the Money, according to your Note.

Ver. Dam his Money! Money never came to any ſure unſeaſonably, till now. Bid him ſtay.

Serv. He ſayes, he cannot a moment.

Ver. Receive it you then.

Serv. He ſayes, he muſt have your Receipt for it: he is in haſt, for I hear him coming up, Sir.

Ver. Dam him. Help me in here then with this diſhonorer of my Family,

Fid. Oh! oh!

Serv. You ſay ſhe is a Woman, Sir.

Ver. No matter, Sir: muſt you prate?

Fid. Oh Heav'ns! is there——

[*They thruſt her in, and lock the door.*

Ver. Stay there, my Priſoner; you have a ſhort Reprieve.

I'll fetch the Gold, and that ſhe can't reſiſt;
For with a full hand 'tis we raviſh beſt.

[Ex.

Finis Actus quarti.

ACT. V. SCENE. I.

Eliza's *Lodging.*

Enter Olivia, *and* Eliza.

Oliv. AH, Couſin, nothing troubles me, but that I have given the malicious World its Revenge, and Reaſon now to talk as freely of me, as I us'd to do of it.

Eli. Faith, then let not that trouble you; for, to be plain, Couſin, the World cannot talk worſe of you, than it did before.

Oliv. How, Couſin? I'd have you to know, before this *faux paſs*, this trip of mine, the World cou'd not talk of me.

Eli. Only that you mind other Peoples actions ſo much, that you take no care of your own, but to hide 'em; that, like a Thief, becauſe you know your ſelf moſt guilty, you impeach your Fellow-Criminals firſt, to clear your ſelf.

Oliv. O wicked World!

Eli. That you pretend an averſion to all Mankind, in publick, only that their Wives and Miſtreſſes may not be jealous, and hinder you of their converſation, in private.

Oliv. Baſe World!

Eli. That, abroad, you faſten quarrels upon innocent Men, for talking of you, only to bring 'em to ask you pardon at home, and to become dear Friends with them, who were hardly your Acquaintance before.

Oliv. Abominable World!

Eli. That you condemn the obſcenity of modern Plays, only that you may be cenſur'd for never miſſing the moſt obſcene of the old ones.

Oliv. Damn'd World!

Eli. That you deface the nudities of Pictures, and little Statues, only becauſe they are not real.

Oliv. O, fie, fie, fie; hideous, hideous, Couſin! the obſcenity of their Cenſures makes me bluſh.

Eli. The truth of 'em, the naughty World wou'd ſay now.

Enter Lettice *haſtily.*

Lett. O! Madam, here is that Gentleman coming up, who now you ſay is my Maſter.

Oliv. O! Couſin, whether ſhall I run? protect me, or———

[Olivia *runs away, and ſtands at a diſtance.*

Enter Verniſh.

Ver. Nay, nay, come——— *Obs.*

Oliv. O, Sir, Forgive me.

Ver. Yes, yes, I can forgive you being alone in the dark with a Woman in Mans cloaths; but have a care of a Man in Womens cloaths.

Oliv. What does he mean? he diſſembles, only to get me into his power: Or has my dear Friend made him believe he was a Woman? My Husband may be deceiv'd by him, but I'm ſure I was not. [*Aſide.*

Ver. Come, come, you need not have lay'n out of your Houſe for this; but perhaps you were afraid, when I was warm with ſuſpicions, you muſt have diſcover'd who ſhe was: And pr'ythee, may I not know it?

Oliv. She was——(I hope he has been deceiv'd: and, ſince my Lover has play'd the Card, I muſt not renounce.) [*Aſide.*

Ver. Come, what's the matter with thee? If I muſt not know who ſhe is, I'm ſatisfi'd without. Come hither.

Oliv. Sure you do know her; ſhe has told you her ſelf, I ſuppoſe.

Ver. No, I might have known her better, but that I was interrupted, by the Goldſmith you know, and was forc'd to lock her into your Chamber, to keep her from his ſight; but, when I return'd, I found ſhe was got away, by tying the window-curtains to the Balcony, by which ſhe ſlid down into the ſtreet: for, you muſt know, I jeſted with her, and made her believe I'd raviſh her; which ſhe apprehended, it ſeems, in earneſt.

Oliv. Then ſhe got from you?

Ver. Yes.

Oliv. And is quite gone?

Ver. Yes.

Oliv. I'm glad on't——otherwiſe you had raviſh'd her, Sir? but how dar'ſt you go ſo far, as to make her believe you wou'd raviſh her? let me underſtand that, Sir. What! there's guilt in your face, you bluſh too: nay, then you did raviſh her, you did, you baſe Fellow. What, raviſh a Woman in the firſt month of her Marriage! 'Tis a double injury to me, thou baſe ungrateful Man; wrong my Bed already, Villain! I cou'd tear out thoſe falſe Eyes, barbarous unworthy Wretch.

Eli. So, ſo!——

Ver. Pr'ythee hear, my Dear.

Oliv. I will never hear you, my plague, my torment.

Ver, I ſwear——pr'ythee hear me.

Oliv. I have heard already too many of your falſe Oaths and Vows, eſpecially your laſt in the Church. O wicked Man! And wretched Woman that I was! I wiſh I had then ſunk down into a Grave, rather than to have given you my hand, to be led to your loathſom Bed. Oh—oh—

[*Seems to weep.*

Ver. So, very fine! juſt a Marriage quarrel! which tho' it generally begins by the Wives fault, yet, in the concluſion, it becomes the Husband's; and whoſoever offends at firſt, he only is ſure to ask pardon at laſt. My Dear——

Oliv. My Devil——

Ver. Come, pr'ythee be appeas'd, and go home; I have beſpoken our Supper betimes: for I cou'd not eat, till I found you. Go, I'll give you

all kind of ſatisfactions; and one, which uſes to be a reconciling one, Two hundred of thoſe Guineys I receiv'd laſt Night, to do what you will with.

Oliv. What, wou'd you pay me for being your Baud?

Ver. Nay, pr'ythee no more; go and I'll throughly ſatisfie you when I come home; and then, too, we will have a fit of laughter, at *Manly*, whom I am going to find at the *Cock* in *Bow ſtreet*, where, I hear he din'd. Go, deareſt, go home.

Eli. A very pretty turn, indeed, this! [*Aſide.*

Ver. Now Couſin, ſince by my Wife I have that honour, and priviledge of calling you ſo, I have ſomething to beg of you too; which is, not to take notice of our Marriage, to any whatever, yet a while, for ſome reaſons very important to me: and next, that you will do my Wife the honour to go home with her, and me the favour, to uſe that power you have with her, in our reconcilement.

Eli. That I dare promiſe, Sir, will be no hard matter.

Your Servant. [*Ex.* Verniſh.

Well, Couſin, this I confeſs was reaſonable hypocriſie; you were the better for't.

Oliv. What hypocriſie?

Eliz. Why, this laſt deceit of your Husband was lawful, ſince in your own defence.

Oliv. What deceit? I'd have you to know, I never deceiv'd my Husband.

Eli. You do not underſtand me, ſure; I ſay, this was an honeſt come-off, and a good one: but 'twas a ſign your Gallant had had enough of your converſation, ſince he cou'd ſo dextrouſly cheat your Husband in paſſing for a Woman?

Oliv. What d'ye mean, once more, with my Gallant, and Paſſing for a Woman?

Eli. VVhat do you mean? you ſee your Husband took him for a Woman.

Oliv. VVhom?

Eli. Hey-day! why, the Man he found you with, for whom laſt Night you were ſo much afraid; and who you told me——

Oliv. Lord, you rave ſure!

Eli. Why, did not you tell me laſt night——

Oliv. I know not what I might tell you laſt night, in a fright.

Eli. Ay, what was that fright for? for a Woman? beſides, were you not afraid to ſee your Husband juſt now? I warrant, only for having been found with a Woman! nay, did you not juſt now too own your falſe ſtep, or trip, as you call'd it? which was with a Woman too! Fie, this fooling is ſo inſipid, 'tis offenſive.

Oliv. And fooling with my Honour will be more offenſive. Did you not hear my Husband ſay, he found me with a Woman, in Mans cloaths? And d'ye think he does not know a Man from a Woman?

Eli. Not ſo well, I'm ſure, as you do; therefore I'd rather take your word.

Oliv.

Oliv. What, you grow ſcurrilous, and are I find more cenſorious, than the World! I muſt have a care of you, I ſee.

Eli. No, you need not fear yet, I'll keep your ſecret.

Oliv. My ſecret! I'd have you to know, I have no need of Confidents, tho' you value your ſelf upon being a good one.

Eli. O admirable confidence! you ſhow more in denying your wickedneſs, than other people in glorying in't.

Oliv. Confidence, to me! to me ſuch language! nay, then I'll never ſee your face again. (I'll quarrel with her, that people may never believe I was in her power; but take for malice all the truth ſhe may ſpeak againſt me. [*Aſide.*] *Lettice*, where are you? let us be gone from this cenſorious ill Woman.

Eli. Nay, thou ſhalt ſtay a little, to damn thy ſelf quite. [*Aſide.* One word firſt, pray Madam; can you ſwear that whom your Husband found with you———

Oliv. Swear! ay, that whoſoever 'twas that ſtole up, unknown, into my Room, when 'twas dark, I know not whether Man or Woman, by Heav'ns, by all that's good; or, may I never more have joyes here, or in the other World: nay, may I eternally ———

Eli. Be damn'd. So, ſo, you are damn'd enough already, by your Oaths; and ſufficiently confirm'd: and now you may pleaſe to be gone. Yet take this advice with you in this Plain-dealing Age, to leave off for-ſwearing your ſelf; for when people hardly think the better of a Woman for her real modeſty, why ſhou'd you put that great conſtraint upon your ſelf to feign it?

Oliv. O hideous! hideous advice! Let us go out of the hearing of it. She will ſpoil us, *Lettice*. [*Ex.* Oliv. *and* Lett. *at one door*, Eli. *at t'other.*

The Scene changes to the Cock *in* Bow-ſtreet.
A Table, and Bottles.

Manly *and* Fidelia.

Man. How! ſav'd her Honour, by making her Husband believe you were a Woman! 'twas well, but hard enough to do ſure.

Fid. We are interrupted before he cou'd contradict me.

Man. But can't you tell me, d'ye ſay, what kind of man he was?

Fid. I was ſo frightned, I confeſs, I can give no other account of him, but that he was pretty tall, round fac'd, and one I'm ſure I ne'er had ſeen before.

Man. But ſhe, you ſay, made you ſwear to return to night?

Fid. But I have ſince ſworn, never to go near her again; for the Husband wou'd murder me, or worſe, if he caught me again.

Man. No, I'll go with you, and defend you to night, and then I'll ſwear too, never to go near her again.

Fid. Nay, indeed Sir, I will not go, to be acceſſary to your death too: beſides, what ſhould you go again, Sir, for?

Man. No diſputing, or advice, Sir; you have reaſon to know I am unalterable.

alterable. Go, therefore, presently, and write her a Note to enquire if her assignation with you holds; and if not, to be at her own House, where else? and be importunate to gain admittance to her to night: let your Messenger, e're he deliver your Letter, enquire first, if her Husband be gone out. Go, 'tis now almost six of the clock; I expect you back here before seven, with leave to see her then. Go, do this dext'rously, and expect the performance of my last nights promise, never to part with you.

Fid. Ay, Sir: but will you be sure to remember that?

Man. Did I never break my Word? go, no more replies, or doubts. [*Exit* Fidelia.

Enter Freeman, *to* Manly.

Where hast thou been?

Free. In the next Room, with my Lord *Plausible* and *Novel*.

Man. Ay, we came hither, because 'twas a private House; but with thee indeed no House can be private, for thou hast that pretty quality of the Familiar Fops of the Town, who, in an Eating-house, alwayes keep company with all People in't, but those they came with.

Free. I went into their Room, but to keep them, and my own Fool the Squire, out of your Room; but you shall be peevish now, because you have no Money: but why the Devil won't you write to those we were speaking of? since your modesty, or your spirit, will not suffer you to speak to 'em, to lend you Money, why won't you try 'em at last, that way?

Man. Because I know 'em already, and can bear want, better than Denials; nay, than Obligations.

Free. Deny you! they cannot: all of 'em have been your intimate Friends.

Man. No, they have been People only I have oblig'd particularly.

Free. Very well; therefore you ought to go to 'em the rather sure.

Man. No, no: those you have oblig'd most, most certainly avoid you, when you can oblige 'em no longer; and they take your Visits like so many Duns: Friends, like Mistresses, are avoided, for Obligations past.

Free. Pshaw! but most of 'em are your Relations; Men of great Fortune, and Honour.

Man. Yes; but Relations have so much Honour, as to think Poverty taints the Blood; and disown their wanting Kindred: believing, I suppose, that, as Riches at first makes a Gentleman, the want of 'em degrades him. But damn 'em, now I am poor, I'll anticipate their contempt, and disown them.

Free. But you have many a Female acquaintance, whom you have been liberal to, who may have a heart to refund to you a little, if you wou'd ask it: they are not all *Olivia*'s.

Man. Damn thee! how cou'dst thou think of such a thing? I wou'd as soon rob my Footman of his Wages: Besides, 'twere in vain too; for a Wench is like a Box in an Ordinary, receive all Peoples Money easily; but there's no getting, nay shaking any out again; and he that fills it, is surest never to keep the Key.

Free.

Free. Well, but noble Captain, wou'd you make me believe that you, who know half the Town, have ſo many Friends, and have oblig'd ſo many, can't borrow fifty or an hundred Pound?

Man. Why, noble Lieutenant, you who know all the Town, and call all you know Friends, methinks ſhou'd not wonder at it; ſince you find Ingratitude too: for how many Lords Families (tho' diſcended from Blackſmiths, or Tinkers) haſt thou call'd Great, and Illuſtrious? how many ill Tables call good eating? how many noiſie Coxcombs, Wits? how many pert Cocking Cowards, ſtout? how many taudry affected Rogues, well dreſt? how many Perukes admir'd? and how many ill Verſes applauded? and yet canſt not borrow a ſhilling; doſt thou expect I, who always ſpoke truth, ſhou'd;

Free. Nay, now you think you have paid me; but hark you, Captain, I have heard of a thing call'd grinning Honour, but never of ſtarving Honour.

Man. Well, but it has been the fate of ſome brave Men: and if they wo'not give me a Ship again, I can go ſtarve any where, with a Muſket on my Shoulder.

Free. Give you a Ship! why, you will not ſolicit it.

Man. If I have not ſolicited it by my ſervices, I know no other way.

Free. Your Servant, Sir; nay then I'm ſatisfi'd, I muſt ſolicit my Widow the cloſer, and run the deſperate fortune of Matrimony on ſhore. [*Exit.*

Enter, to Manly, Verniſh.

Man. How! —Nay, here is a Friend indeed; and he that has him in his arms, can know no wants. [*Embraces* Verniſh.

Ver. Dear Sir! and he that is in your arms, is ſecure from all fears whatever; nay, our Nation is ſecure by your defeat at Sea, and the *Dutch* that fought againſt you, have prov'd enemies to themſelves only, in bringing you back to us.

Man. Fie, fie; this from a Friend? and yet from any other 'twere unſufferable: I thought I ſhou'd never have taken any thing ill from you.

Ver. A Friends Priviledge is to ſpeak his mind, tho' it be taken ill.

Man. But your tongue need not tell me you think too well of me; I have found it from your heart, which ſpoke in actions, your unalterable heart: but *Olivia* is falſe, my Friend, which I ſuppoſe is no News to you.

Ver. He's in the right on't. [*Aſide.*

Man. But coud'ſt thou not keep her true to me?

Ver. Not for my heart, Sir.

Man. But cou'd you not perceive it at all, before I went? cou'd ſhe ſo deceive us both?

Ver. I muſt confeſs, the firſt time I knew it, was three days after your departure, when ſhe receiv'd the Money you had left in *Lombard-ſtreet*, in her name; and her tears did not hinder her it ſeems from counting that. You wou'd truſt her with all, like a true generous Lover!

Man. And ſhe like a mean Jilting ——

Ver.

Ver. Trayterous——

Man. Baſe——

Ver. Damn'd——

Man. Covetous——

Ver. Mercenary Whore——

(I can hardly hold from laughing.) [*Aſide.*

Man. Ay, a Mercenary Whore indeed, for ſhe made me pay her before I lay with her.

Ver. How!——Why, have you lay'n with her?

Man. Ay, ay.

Ver. Nay, ſhe deſerves you ſhou'd report it at leaſt, tho' you have not.

Man. Report it! by Heav'n, 'tis true.

Ver. How! ſure not.

Man. I do not uſe to lie, nor you to doubt me.

Ver. When?

Man. Laſt night, about ſeven or eight of the Clock.

Ver. Ha!—Now I remember, I thought ſhe ſpake as if ſhe expected ſome other, rather than me: a confounded Whore indeed! [*Aſide.*

Man. But, what, thou wonder'ſt at it! nay, you ſeem to be angry too.

Ver. I cannot but be enrag'd againſt her, for her uſage of you: damn'd, infamous, common Jade.

Man. Nay, her Cuckold, who firſt Cuckolded me in my Money, ſhall not laugh all himſelf; we will do him reaſon, ſhan't we?

Ver. Ay, ay.

Man. But thou doſt not, for ſo great a Friend, take pleaſure enough in your Friends Revenge, methinks.

Ver. Yes, yes; I'm glad to know it ſince you have lay'n with her.

Man. Thou can'ſt not tell me who that Raſcal, her Cuckold, is?

Ver. No.

Man. She wou'd keep it from you, I ſuppoſe.

Ver. Yes, yes——

Man. Thou woud'ſt laugh, if thou kneweſt but all the circumſtances of my having her. Come, I'll tell thee.

Ver. Dam her; I care not to hear any more of her.

Man. Faith thou ſhalt. You muſt know——

Enter Freeman *backwards, endeavouring to keep out* Novel, Lord Plauſible, Jerry *and* Oldfox, *who all preſs in upon him.*

Free. I tell you, he has a Wench with him, and wou'd be private.

Man. Dam'em! a Man can't open a Bottle, in theſe eating houſes, but preſently you have theſe impudent, intruding, buzzing Flies and Inſects, in your Glaſs.——Well, I'll tell thee all anon. In the mean time, pr'ythee go to her, but not from me, and try if you can get her to lend me but an hundred pound of my Money, to ſupply my preſent wants; for I ſuppoſe there is no recovering any of it by law.

Ver. Not any; think not of it: nor by this way neither.

Man.

Man. Go try, at leaſt.

Ver. I'll go; but I can ſatisfie you before-hand, 'twill be to no purpoſe: You'll no more find a refunding Wench ——

Man. Than a refunding Lawyer; indeed their Fees alike ſcarce ever return: however, try her, put it to her.

Ver. Ay, ay, I'll try her, put it to her home, with a vengance.

[*Exit* Verniſh.

Manent cæteri.

Nov. Nay, you ſhall be our Judge, *Manly.* Come, Major, I'll ſpeak it to your teeth: if people provoke me to ſay bitter things, to their faces, they muſt take what follows; tho' like my Lord *Plauſible*, I'd rather do't civilly behind their backs.

Man. Nay thou art a dangerous Rogue, I've heard, behind a Mans back.

L. Plauſ. You wrong him ſure, noble Captain; he wou'd do a Man no more harm behind his back, than to his face.

Free. I am of my Lord's mind.

Man. Yes, a Fool, like a Coward, is the more to be fear'd behind a Man's back, more than a witty Man: for, as a Coward is more bloody than a brave Man, a Fool is more malicious than a Man of Wit.

Nov. A Fool, Tar——a Fool! nay, thou art a brave Sea-Judge of Wit! a Fool! pr'ythee when did you ever find me want ſomething to ſay, as you do often?

Man. Nay, I confeſs, thou art alwayes talking, roaring, or making a noiſe; that I'll ſay for thee.

Nov. Well, and is talking a Sign of a Fool?

Man. Yes, alwayes talking; eſpecially too if it be loud and faſt, is the ſign of a Fool.

Nov. Pſhaw! Talking is like Fencing, the quicker the better; run 'em down, run 'em down, no matter for parrying; puſh on ſtill, ſa, ſa, ſa: no matter whether you argue in form, puſh in guard, or no.

Man. Or hit, or no; I think thou alwayes talk'ſt without thinking, *Novel.*

Nov. Ay, ay; ſtudy'd Play's the worſe, to follow the Allegory, as the old Pedant ſayes.

Old. A Young Fop!

Man. I ever thought the Man of moſt Wit, had been, like him of moſt Money, who has no vanity in ſhewing it every where; whilſt the beggarly puſher of his Fortune, has all he has about him ſtill, only to ſhow.

Nov. Well, Sir, and makes a very pretty ſhow in the World, let me tell you; nay, a better then your cloſe Hunks: A Pox give me ready Money in Play; what care I for a Mans reputation? what are we the better for your ſubſtantial thrifty Curmudgeon in Wit, Sir.

Old. Thou art a profuſe young Rogue indeed.

Nov. So much for talking; which I think I have prov'd a mark of Wit; and ſo is Railing, Roaring, and making a noiſe: for, Railing is Satyr,

you know; and Roaring, and making a noiſe, Humor.

Enter to them, Fidelia, *taking* Manly *aſide, and ſhewing him a paper.*

Fid. The hour is betwixt ſeven and eight exactly: 'tis now half an hour after ſix.

Man. Well, go then to the Piazza, and wait for me; as ſoon as it is quite dark, I'll be with you: I muſt ſtay here yet a while, for my Friend. But is Railing Satyr, *Novel*? [*Ex.* Fidel.

Free. And Roaring, and making a noiſe, Humor?

Nov. What, won't you confeſs there's Humor in Roaring, and making a noiſe?

Free. No.

Nov. Nor in cutting Napkins, and Hangings?

Man. No, ſure.

Nov. Dul Fops!

Old. O Rogue, Rogue, inſipid Rogue! Nay Gentlemen, allow him thoſe things for Wit; for his parts lie only that way.

Nov. Peace, old Fool, I wonder not at thee; but that young Fellows ſhou'd be ſo dull, as to ſay, there's no Humor in making a noiſe, and breaking Windows! I tell you, there's Wit and Humor too, in both: And a Wit is as well known by his Frolick, as by his Simile.

Old. Pure Rogue! there's your modern Wit for you! Wit, and Humor, in breaking of Windows! There's Miſchief, if you will; but no Wit or Humor.

Nov. Pr'ythee, pr'ythee peace, old Fool. I tell you, where there is Miſchief, there's Wit. Don't we eſteem the Monky a Wit amongſt Beaſts, only becauſe he's miſchievous? And let me tell you, as good Nature is a ſign of a Fool, being Miſchievous is a ſign of Wit.

Old. O Rogue, Rogue! pretend to be a Wit, by doing Miſchief and Railing!

Nov. Why, thou, old Fool, haſt no other Pretence to the name of a Wit, but by Railing at new Plays.

Old. Thou, by Railing at that facetious, noble way of Wit, quibling.

Nov. Thou call'ſt thy dulneſs, gravity; and thy dozing, thinking.

Old. You, Sir, your dulneſs, ſpleen,: And you talk much, and ſay nothing,

Nov. Thou read'ſt much and underſtand'ſt nothing, Sir.

Old. You laugh loud, and break no Jeſt.

Nov. You rail, and no body hangs himſelf: And thou haſt nothing of the Styr, but in thy face.

Old. And you have no jeſt, but your face, Sir.

Nov. Thou art an illiterate Pedant.

Old. Thou art a Fool, with a bad Memory.

Man. Come, a Pox on you both, you have done like Wits now; for you Wits, when you quarrel, never give over, till you prove one another Fools.

Nov. And you Fools have never any occaſion of laughing at us Wits, but when

when we quarrel: therefore, let us be Friends, *Oldfox.*

Man. They are ſuch Wits as thou art, who make the name of a Wit as ſcandalous, as that of Bully; and ſignifie a loud-laughing, talking, incorrigible Coxcomb; as Bully, a roaring, hardned Coward.

Free. And wou'd have his noiſe and laughter paſs for Wit; as to'ther his huffing and bluſtring, for Courage.

Enter Verniſh.

Man. Gentlemen, with your leave, here is one I wou'd ſpeak with, and I have nothing to ſay to you. [*Puts 'em out of the Room.*

Manent Manly, Verniſh.

Ver. I told you 'twas in vain, to think of getting Money out of her: ſhe ſayes, if a ſhilling wou'd do't, ſhe wou'd not ſave you from ſtarving, or hanging, or what you wou'd think worſe, begging or flattering; and rails ſo at you, one wou'd not think you had lay'n with her.

Man. O, Friend, never truſt, for that matter, a Womans railing; for ſhe is no leſs a diſſembler in her hatred, than her love: And as her fondneſs of her Husband is a ſign he's a Cuckold, her railing at another Man is a ſign ſhe lies with him.

Ver. He's in the right on't: I know not what to truſt to. [*Aſide.*

Man. But you did not take any notice of it to her, I hope?

Ver. So!———Sure he is afraid I ſhou'd have diſprov'd him, by an enquiry of her: all may be well yet. [*Aſide.*

Man. What haſt thou in thy head, that makes thee ſeem ſo unquiet?

Ver. Only this baſe, impudent Womans falſneſs: I cannot put her out of my head.

Man. O my dear Friend, be not you too ſenſible of my wrongs, for then I ſhall feel 'em too, with more pain, and think 'em unſufferable. Dam her, her Money, and that ill-natur'd Whore too, Fortune her ſelf; but if thou wou'dſt eaſe a little my preſent trouble, pr'ythee go borrow me ſomewhere elſe, ſome Money: I can trouble thee.

Ver. You trouble me indeed, moſt ſenſibly, when you command me any thing I cannot do: I have lately loſt a great deal of Money at Play, more than I can yet pay; ſo that not only my Money, but my Credit too is gone, and know not where to borrow; but cou'd rob a Church for you. (Yet wou'd rather end your wants, by cutting your throat.) [*Aſide.*

Man. Nay, then I doubly feel my poverty, ſince I'm incapable of ſupplying thee. [*Embraces* Verniſh.

Ver. But, methinks, ſhe that granted you the laſt favour, (as they call it) ſhou'd not deny you any thing———

Nov. Hey, Tarpaulin, have you done? [Novel *looks in, and retires again.*

Ver. I underſtand not that point of kindneſs, I confeſs.

Man. No, thou doſt not underſtand it, and I have not time to let you know all now, for theſe Fools, you ſee, will interrupt us; but anon, at Supper,

we'll laugh at leiſure together, at *Olivia*'s Cuckold; who took a young Fellow, that goes between his Wife and me, for a Woman.

Ver. Ha!

Man. Senſeleſs, eaſie Raſcal! 'twas no wonder ſhe choſe him for a Husband; but ſhe thought him, I thank her, fitter than me, for that blind, bearing Office.

Ver. I cou'd not be deceiv'd in that long Womans hair ty'd up behind; nor thoſe infallible proofs, her pouting, ſwelling breaſts: I have handled too many ſure not to know 'em. [*Aſide.*

Man. What, you wonder the Fellow cou'd be ſuch a blind Coxcomb!

Ver. Yes, yes—— [Novel *looks in again, and retires.*

Nov. Nay, pr'ythee, come to us, *Manly*; Gad, all the fine things one ſayes, in their company, are loſt, without thee.

Man. Away, Fop; I'm buſie yet.

You ſee we cannot talk here at our eaſe; beſides, I muſt be gone immediately, in order to meeting with *Olivia* again to night.

Ver. To night! it cannot be ſure——

Man. I had an appointment juſt now from her.

Ver. For what time?

Man. At half an hour after ſeven preciſely.

Ver. Don't you apprehend the Husband?

Man. He! ſniveling Gull! he a thing to be fear'd! a Husband, the tameſt of creatures!

Ver. Very fine! [*Aſide.*

Man. But, pr'ythee, in the mean time, go try to get me ſome Money. Tho' thou art too modeſt to borrow for thy ſelf, thou canſt do any thing for me, I know. Go; for I muſt be gone to *Olivia*: go, and meet me here anon. — *Freeman*, where are you! [*Ex.* Manly.

Manet Verniſh.

Ver. Ay, I'll meet with you, I warrant; but it ſhall be at *Olivia*'s. Sure it cannot be; ſhe denies it ſo calmly, and with that honeſt, modeſt aſſurance, it can't be true—and he does not uſe to lye—but belying a Woman, when ſhe won't be kind, is the only lye a brave Man will leaſt ſcruple. But then the Woman in Mans cloaths, whom he calls a Man!—well, but, by her Breaſts I know her to be a Woman:—But then, again, his appointment from her, to meet with him to night! I am diſtracted more with doubt, than jealouſie. Well, I have no way to diſabuſe or revenge my ſelf, but by going home immediately, putting on a riding Suit, and pretending to my Wife the ſame buſineſs which carry'd me out of Town laſt, requires me again to go Poſt to *Oxford* to night; then, if the appointment he boaſts of be true, it's ſure to hold; and I ſhall have an opportunity either of clearing her, or revenging my ſelf on both. Perhaps, ſhe is his Wench, of an old date, and I am his Cully, whil'ſt I think him mine; and he has ſeem'd to make his Wench rich, only that I might take her off his hands: or if he has but lately lay'n with her, he muſt needs diſcover, by her, my treachery to him; which I'm ſure

ſure he will revenge with my death, and which I muſt prevent with his, if it were only but for fear of his too juſt reproaches; for, I muſt confeſs, I never had till now any excuſe, but that of int'reſt, for doing ill to him. [*Ex.* Verniſh.

Re-enter Manly *and* Freeman.

Man. Come hither, only I ſay beſure you miſtake not the time; you know the houſe exactly where *Olivia* lodges: 'tis juſt hard by.

Free. Yes, yes.

Man. Well then, bring 'em all, I ſay, thither, and all you know that may be then in the houſe; for the more Witneſſes I have of her infamy, the greater will be my revenge: and be ſure you come ſtrait up to her Chamber, without more ado. Here, take the Watch: you ſee 'tis above a quarter paſt ſeven; be there in half an hour exactly.

Free. You need not doubt my diligence, or dexterity; I am an old Scowrer, and can naturally beat up a Wenches quarters that won't be civil. Shan't we break her Windows too?

Man. No, no: be punctual only. [*Ex. Ambo.*

Enter Widow Blackacre, *and two Knights of the Poſt: a Waiter with Wine.*

Wid. Sweet-heart, are you ſure the door was ſhut cloſe, that none of thoſe Royſters ſaw us come in?

Wait. Yes, Miſtreſs; and you ſhall have a privater Room above, inſtantly. [*Ex. Wait.*

Wid. You are ſafe enough, Gentlemen, for I have been private in this houſe ere now, upon other occaſions, when I was ſomething younger. Come Gentlemen, in ſhort, I leave my buſineſs to your care and fidelity: and ſo, here's to you.

1. *Knight.* We are ungrateful Rogues, if we ſhou'd not be honeſt to you; for we have had a great deal of your Money.

Wid. And you have done me many a good job for't: and ſo, here's to you again.

2. *Knight.* Why, we have been perjur'd, but ſix times for you.

1. *Knight.* Forg'd but four Deeds, with your Husbands laſt Deed of Gift.

2. *Knight.* And but three Wills.

1. *Knight.* And counterfeited Hands and Seals to ſome ſix Bonds; I think that's all, Brother.

Wid. Ay, that's all, Gentlemen; and ſo, here's to you again.

2. *Knight.* Nay, 'twou'd do ones heart good to be forſworn for you: you have a Conſcience in your ways, and pay us well.

1. *Knight.* You are in the right on't, Brother; one wou'd be damn'd for her, with all ones heart.

2. *Knight.* But there are Rogues, who make us forſworn for 'em; and when we come to be paid, they'll be forſworn too, and not pay us our wages which they promis'd with Oaths ſufficient.

1. *Knight.* Ay, a great Lawyer, that ſhall be nameleſs, Bilkt me too.

Wid.

Wid. That was hard, methinks, that a Lawyer ſhou'd uſe Gentlemen Witneſſes no better.

2. *Knight.* A Lawyer! d'ye wonder a Lawyer ſhou'd do't? I was Bilk'd by a Reverend Divine, that preaches twice on Sundays, and prays half an hour ſtill before dinner.

Wid. How? a Conſcientious Divine, and not pay people for damning themſelves! Sure then, for all his talking, he does not believe damnation. But come, to our buſineſs: pray be ſure to imitate exactly the flouriſh at the end of this name. [*Pulls out a Deed or two.*

1. *Knight.* O he's the beſt in *England* at untangling a flouriſh, Madam.

Wid. And let not the Seal be a jot bigger: obſerve well the daſh too, at the end of this name.

2. *Knight.* I warrant you, Madam.

Wid. Well, theſe, and many other ſhifts, poor Widows are put to ſometimes; for every body wou'd be riding a Widow, as they ſay, and breaking into her Jointure: they think marrying a Widow an eaſie buſineſs, like leaping the Hedge, where another has gone over before; a Widow is a meer gap, a gap with them.

Enter to them Major Oldfox, *with two Waiters.*

[*The Knights of the Poſt huddle up the Writings.*

What, he here! go then, go, my hearts, you have your inſtructions. [*Ex. Knights of the Poſt.*

Old. Come, Madam, to be plain with you, I'll be fob'd off no longer. I'll bind her and gag her, but ſhe ſhall hear me. [*Aſide.*

Look you, Friends, there's the Money I promis'd you; and now do you what you promis'd me: here are my Garters, and here's a Gag: you ſhall be acquainted with my parts, Lady, you ſhall.

Wid. Acquainted with your parts! A Rape, a Rape—What, will you raviſh me? *The Waiters tye her to the Chair, and gag her; and* Ex.

Old. Yes, Lady, I will raviſh you; but it ſhall be through the ear, Lady, the ear onely, with my well-penn'd Acroſtics.

Enter to them, Freeman, Jerry Blackacre, *three Bayliffs, a Conſtable, and his Aſſiſtants, with the two Knights of the Poſt.*

What, ſhall I never read my things undiſturb'd again?

Jerr. O Law! my Mother bound hand and foot, and gaping, as if ſhe roſe before her time to day!

Free. What means this, *Oldfox*? But I'll releaſe you from him: you ſhall be no Mans Priſoner, but mine. Bayliffs, execute your Writ.

[Freeman *unties her.*

Old. Nay, then I'll be gone, for fear of being Bayl, and paying her Debts, without being her Husband. [*Ex.* Oldfox.

1. *Bay.* We arreſt you, in the King's Name, at the Suit of Mr. *Freeman*, Guardian to *Jeremiah Blackacre* Eſq; in an Action of Ten thouſand pounds.

Wid.

Wid. How, How! in a Choak-Bayl Action! What, and the Pen and Ink Gentlemen taken too! Have you confeſt, you Rogues?

1. *Knight.* We needed not to confeſs; for the Bayliffs dog'd us hither to the very door, and over-heard all that you and we ſaid.

Wid. Undone, undone then! no Man was ever too hard for me, till now. , *Jerry*, Child, wilt thou vex again the Womb that bore thee?

Jerr. Ay, for bearing me before Wedlock, as you ſay: But I'll teach you to call a *Blackacre* a Baſtard, tho' you were never ſo much my Mother.

Wid. Well, I'm undone: not one trick left? no Law-Meuſh imaginable? [*Aſide.*

Cruel Sir, a word with you I pray.

Free. In vain, Madam; for you have no other way to releaſe your ſelf, but by the Bonds of Matrimony.

Wid. How, Sir, how! that were but to ſue out an *Habeas Corpus*, for a removal from one Priſon to another. Matrimony!

Free. Well, Bayliffs, away with her.

Wid. O ſtay, Sir, can you be ſo cruel, as to bring me under Covert Baron again? and put it out of my power to ſue in my own name. Matrimony, to a Woman, worſe than Excommunication, in depriving her of the benefit of the Law: and I wou'd rather be deprived of life. But hark you, Sir, I am contented you ſhou'd hold and enjoy my perſon by Leaſe or Patent; but not by the ſpiritual Patent, call'd a Licence; that is, to have the priviledges of a Husband, without the dominion; that is, *Durante beneplacito*: in conſideration of which, I will out of my Jointure, ſecure you an Annuity of three hundred pounds a Year, and pay your debts; and that's all you younger Brothers deſire to marry a Widow for I'm ſure.

Free. Well, Widow, if——

Jerr. What, I hope, Bully Guardian, you are not making Agreements, without me?

Free. No, no. Firſt, Widow, you muſt ſay no more that he is the Son of a Whore; have a care of that: And then, he muſt have a ſetled Exhibition of forty pounds a Year, and a Nag of Aſſizes, kept by you, but not upon the Common; and have free ingreſs, egreſs, and regreſs to and from your Maids Garret.

Wid. Well, I can grant all that too.

Jerr. Ay, ay, fair words butter no Cabage; but, Guardian, make her Sign, Sign and Seal: for, otherwiſe, if you knew her as well as I, you wou'd not truſt her word for a farthing.

Free. I warrant thee, Squire. Well, Widow, ſince thou art ſo generous, I will be generous too; and if you'll ſecure me Four hundred pounds a Year, but during your life, and pay my debts, not above a thouſand pound; I'll bate you your perſon, to diſpoſe of as you pleaſe,

Wid. Have a care, Sir, a ſettlement without a Conſideration, is void in the Law: you muſt do ſomething for't.

Free. Pr'ythee then let the Settlement on me be call'd Alimony: and the Conſideration our Seperation: Come, my Lawyer, with Writings ready drawn, is within, and in haſte. Come.

Wid.

Wid. But, what, no other kind of conſideration, Mr. *Freeman.?* well, a Widow, I ſee, is a kind of a *ſine cure*, by cuſtom of which the unconſcionable incumbent enjoyes the profits, without any duty, but does that ſtill elſewhere. [*Ex. omn.*

The Scene changes to Olivia's *Lodging.*

Enter Olivia, *with a Candle in her hand.*

Oliv. So, I am now prepar'd once more for my timorous young Lover's Reception: my Husband is gone; and go thou out too, thou next interrupter of Love——[*Puts out the Candle*] Kind darkneſs, that frees us Lovers from ſcandal and baſhfulneſs, from the cenſure of our Gallants, and the World. So, are you there?

Enter to Olivia, Fidelia, *follow'd ſoftly by* Manly.

Come, my dear punctual Lover, there is not ſuch another in the World; thou haſt Beauty and Youth to pleaſe a Wife; Addreſs and Wit, to amuſe and fool a Husband; nay; thou haſt all things to be wiſh'd in a Lover, but your Fits: I hope, my Dear, you won't have one to night; and, that you may not, I'll lock the door, tho' there be no need of it, but to lock out your Fits; for my Husband is juſt gone out of Town again. Come, where are you? [*Goes to the door, and locks it.*

Man. Well, thou haſt impudence enough to give me Fits too, and make Revenge it ſelf impotent, hinder me from making thee yet more infamous, if it can be. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. Come, come, my Soul, come.

Fid. Preſently, my Dear: we have time enough, ſure.

Oliv. How! time enough! True Lovers can no more think they ever have time enough, than love enough: You ſhall ſtay with me all night; but that is but a Lover's moment. Come.

Fid. But won't you let me give you and my ſelf the ſatisfaction of telling you, how I abus'd your Husband laſt night?

Oliv. Not when you can give me, and your ſelf too, the ſatisfaction of abuſing him again, to night. Come.

Fid. Let me but tell you how your Husband——.

Oliv. O name not his, or *Manly*'s more loathſom name, if you love me; I forbid 'em laſt night: and you know I mention'd my Husband but once, and he came. No talking pray; 'twas ominous to us. You make me fancy a noiſe at the door already, but I'm reſolv'd not to be interrupted. [*A noiſe at the door.*] Where are you? Come; for, rather than loſe my dear expectation now, tho' my Husdand were at the door, and the bloody Ruffian *Manly* here in the Room, with all his awful inſolence, I wou'd give my ſelf to this dear hand, to be led away, to Heavens of joys, which none but thou can'ſt give. But what's this noiſe at the door? So, I told you what talking wou'd come to. [*The noiſe at the door increaſes.* Ha!—O Heavens my Husbands voice!——[Olivia *liſtens at the door.*

Man. Freeman is come too ſoon. [*Aſide.*

Oliv. O, 'tis he!—Then here's the happieſt minute loſt, that ever, baſhful

ful Boy, or trifling Woman fool'd away! I'm undone! my Husbands reconcilement too was falſe, as my joy, all deluſion: but, come this way, here's a Back-door. [*Exit, and returns.*

The officious Jade has lock'd us in, inſtead of locking others out; but let us then eſcape your way, by the Balcony; and whil'ſt you pull down the Curtains, I'll fetch, from my Cloſet, what next will beſt ſecure our eſcape: I have left my Key in the door, and 'twill not ſuddenly be broke open. [*Exit.*

A noiſe as it were people forcing the door.

Man. Stir not, yet fear nothing.

Fid. Nothing, but your life, Sir.

Man. We ſhall now know this happy Man ſhe calls Husband.

Olivia *Re-enters.*

Oliv. Oh, where are you? what, idle with fear? Come, I'll tie the Curtains, if you will hold. Here, take this Cabinet and Purſe, for it is thine, if we eſcape; [Manly *takes from her the Cabinet and Purſe.*

therefore let us make haſte. [*Ex.* Oliv.

Man. 'Tis mine indeed now again, and it ſhall never eſcape more from me: to you at leaſt.

[*The door broken open, Enter* Verniſh *alone, with a dark Lanthorn and a Sword, running at* Manly; *who draws, puts by the thruſt, and defends himſelf, whil'ſt* Fidelia *runs at* Verniſh *behind.*

Ver. So, there I'm right ſure —— [*With a low voice.*

Man. Softly. Sword and dark Lanthorn, Villain, are ſome odds; but—

Ver. Odds! I'm ſure I find more odds than I expected: what, has my inſatiable two Seconds at once? but—— [*With a low voice.*

[*Whil'ſt they fight* Olivia *re-enters, tying two Curtains together.*

Oliv. Where are you now?——what, is he entered then, and are they fighting! O do not kill one that can make no defence [Manly *throws* Verniſh *down, and diſarms him*] How! but I think he has the better on't: here's his Scarf, 'tis he. So, keep him down ſtill: I hope thou haſt no hurt my deareſt? [*Embracing* Manly.

Enter to them Freeman, Lord Plauſible, Novel, Jerry Blackacre, *and the* Widow Blackacre, *lighted in by the two Sailors with Torches.*

Ha!——what?——*Manly!* And have I been thus concern'd for him, embracing him! And has he his Jewels again too? what means this? O 'tis too ſure, as well as my ſhame! which I'll go hide for ever.

[*Offers to go out,* Manly *ſtops her.*

Man. No, my deareſt, after ſo much kindneſs as has paſt between us, I cannot part with you yet. *Freeman*, let no body ſtir out of the Room; for, notwithſtanding your lights, we are yet in the dark, till this Gentleman pleaſe to turn his face.—— [*Pulls* Verniſh *by the ſleeve.*

How! *Verniſh!* Art thou the happy man then? Thou! Thou! Speak I ſay; but thy guilty ſilence tells me all——well, I ſhall not upbraid thee; for

my wonder is ſtriking me as dumb, as thy ſhame has made thee. But, what? my little Volunteer hurt, and fainting!

Fid. My wound, Sir, is but a ſlight one, in my Arm: 'tis only my fear of your danger, Sir, not yet well over.

Man. But what's here? more ſtrange things! [*Obſerving* Fidelia's *hair unty'd behind, and without a Periuke, which ſhe loſt in the ſcuffle.* What means this long Womans hair! and face, now all of it appears, too beautiful for a Man; which I ſtill thought womaniſh indeed! what, you have not deceiv'd me too, my little Volunteer?

Oliv. Me ſhe has I'm ſure. [*Aſide.*

Man. Speak.

Enter Eliza, *and* Lettice.

Eli. What, Couſin, I am brought hither by your Woman, I ſuppoſe, to be a witneſs of the ſecond vindication of your Honour?

Oliv. Inſulting is not generous: You might ſpare me, I have you.

Eli. Have a care, Couſin, you'll confeſs anon too much; and I wou'd not have your ſecrets.

Man. Come, your bluſhes anſwer me ſufficiently, and you have been my Volunteer in love. [*To* Fidelia.

Fid. I muſt confeſs I needed no compulſion to follow you all the world over; which I attempted in this habit, partly out of ſhame to own my love to you, and fear of a greater ſhame, your refuſal of it: for I know of your engagement to this Lady, and the conſtancy of your nature; which nothing cou'd have alter'd, but her ſelf.

Man. Dear Madam, I deſir'd you to bring me out of confuſion, and you have given me more: I know not what to ſpeak to you, or how to look upon you; the ſenſe of my rough, hard, and ill uſage of you, (tho' chiefly your own fault) gives me more pain now 'tis over, than you had, when you ſuffer'd it: and if my heart, the refuſal of ſuch a Woman, [*Pointing to* Olivia] were not a Sacrifice to prophane your love, and a greater wrong to you than ever yet I did you; I wou'd beg of you to receive it, tho' you us'd it, as ſhe had done; for tho' it deſerv'd not from her the treatment ſhe gave it, it does from you.

Fid. Then it has had puniſhment ſufficient from her already, and needs no more from me; and, I muſt confeſs, I wou'd not be the only cauſe of making you break your laſt nights Oath to me, of never parting with me: if you do not forget, or repent it.

Man. Then, take for ever my heart, and this with it; [*Gives her the Cabinet*] for 'twas given to you before, and my heart was before your due; I only beg leave to diſpoſe of theſe few —Here, Madam, I never yet left my Wench unpaid. [*Takes ſome of the Jewels, and offers 'em to* Olivia; *ſhe ſtrikes 'em down:* Plauſible *and* Novel take *'em up.*

Oliv. So it ſeems, by giving her the Cabinet.

L *Plauſ.* The Pendents appertain to your moſt faithful humble Servant.

Nov. And this Locket is mine; my earneſt for love, which ſhe never paid: therefore my own again.

Wid. By what Law, Sir, pray? Couſin *Olivia*, a word: What, do they make

make a seisure on your Goods and Chattels, *vi & armis?* Make your demand I say, and bring your Trover, bring your Trover. I'll follow the Law for you.

Oliv. And I my revenge. [*Exit* Oliv.

Man. to *Ver.* But 'tis, my Friend, in your consideration most, that I wou'd have return'd part of your Wives portion; for 'twere hard to take all from thee, since thou hast paid so dear for't, in being such a Rascal: yet thy Wife is a Fortune without a Portion; and thou art a man of that extraordinary merit in Villany, the World and Fortune can never desert thee, tho' I do; therefore be not melancholy. Fare you well, Sir. [*Ex.* Vernish, *doggedly.* Now, Madam, I beg your pardon, [*Turning to* Fidelia] for lessening the present I made you; but my heart can never be lessen'd: this I confess, was too small for you before; for you deserve the *Indian* World; and I wou'd now go thither, out of covetousness for your sake only.

Fid. Your heart, Sir, is a Present of that value, I can never make any return to't; [*Pulling* Manly *from the company*] but I can give you back such a Present as this, which I got by the loss of my Father, a Gentleman of the North, of no mean Extraction, whose only Child I was, therefore left me in the present possession of Two thousand pounds a Year; which I left, with multitudes of Pretenders, to follow you, *Sir*; having in several publick places seen you, and observ'd your actions throughly, with admiration, when you were too much in love to take notice of mine, which yet was but too visible. The name of my Family is *Grey*; my other, *Fidelia*: the rest of my Story you shall know, when I have fewer Auditors.

Man. Nay, now, Madam, you have taken from me all power of making you any Complement on my part; for I was going to tell you, that for your sake only, I wou'd quit the unknown pleasure of a retirement; and rather stay in this ill World of ours still, tho' odious to me, than give you more frights again at Sea, and make again too great a venture there, in you alone. But if I shou'd tell you now all this, and that your vertue (since greater than I thought any was in the World) had now reconcil'd me to't, my Friend here wou'd say, 'tis your Estate that has made me Friends with the World,

Free. I must confess I shou'd; for I think most of our quarrels to the World, are just such as we have to a handsom Woman: only because we cannot enjoy her, as we wou'd do.

Nan. Nay, if thou art a *Plain-dealer* too, give me thy hand; for now I'll say I am thy Friend indeed: And for your sakes, tho' I have been so lately deceiv'd in Friends of both Sexes;

I will believe there are now in the World
Good-natur'd Friends, who are not Prostitutes,
And handsom Women worthy to be Friends:
Yet, for my sake, let no one e're confide
In Years, or Oaths, in Love, or Friend untry'd. [*Ex.* Omnes.

FINIS.

EPILOGUE, Spoken by the *Widow Blackacre.*

TO you the Judges learned in Stage Laws,
Our Poet now, by me, ſubmits his Cauſe;
For with young Judges, ſuch as moſt of you,
The Men by Women beſt their bus'neſs do:
And, truth on't is, if you did not ſit here,
To keep for us a Term throughout the year,
We cou'd not live by'r Tongues: nay, but for you,
Our Chamber-practice wou'd be little too.
And 'tis not only the Stage Practiſer
Who, by your meeting, gets her living here;
For, as in Hall of Weſtminſter,
Sleek Sempſtreſs vents, amidſt the Courts, her Ware:
So, while we Baul, and you in Judgment ſit,
The Viſor-Mask ſels Linen too i'th' Pit.
O many of your Friends, beſides us here,
Do live by putting off their ſev'ral Ware.
Here's daily done the great affair o'th Nation:
Let Love, *and Us then, ne'r have* Long-vacation.
But hold; like other Pleaders, I have done
Not by my poor Client's buſneſs, but my own.
Spare me a word then, now, for him. Firſt know.
Squires of the Long Robe, *he does humbly ſhow*
He has a juſt Right in abuſing you;
Becauſe he is a Brother-Templar *too:*
For at the Bar, you Railly one another;
Nay Fool *and knave, is ſwallow'd from a Brother:*
If not the Poet here, the Templar *ſpare;*
And maul him, when you catch him at the Bar.
From you, our common modiſh Cenſurers,
Your Favour, *not your Judgment, 'tis he fears:*
Of all Loves *begs you then to Rail, find fault:*
For Plays, like Women, by the world are thought
(When you ſpeak kindly of 'em) very naught.